

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Arafat-Weizman meeting overshadows strained peace talks

By Marjorie Miller
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JERUSALEM—Making his first official visit to Israel in the light of day, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman in a display of personal peacemaking Tuesday as negotiators for the two sides renewed troubled talks over the redeployment of Israeli soldiers from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Arafat flew in an Israeli air force helicopter to Weizman's home in the seaside city of Caesarea after gun battles between Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers left at least 75 dead and more than 1,000 wounded.

"Negotiations will be the tool to resolve our differences," Arafat told the handful of reporters allowed into a heavy security ring around the Israeli president's house. "We are determined to continue with this road of a new Middle East that will be devoid of wars, violence and counter-violence."

Israeli-Palestinian tensions, however, appeared to be straining Israel's relations with its closest ally in the Arab world, Jordan.

His Majesty King Hussein, who signed a peace agreement



Arafat with Weizman during their meeting

with Israel in 1994, called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to uphold peace accords with the Palestinians and warned that lack of progress in the negotiations could lead to renewed war.

At the same time, his government filed a formal complaint over Netanyahu's decision to open an archeological tunnel near Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem's Old City. The tunnel project sparked the recent violence

that threatened the peace process.

The complaint said Netanyahu should have consulted with King Hussein, who is the official overseer of Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem. Israel seized East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Nonetheless, the diplomatic broil failed to throw a cloud over Arafat's midday meeting with Weizman, whose role in Israel is largely ceremonial. Arafat wore his usual military garb and checkered kaffiyeh to the luncheon and looked far cheerier than in the shell-shocked portrait he presented after his White House summit with Netanyahu last week.

Weizman, a former defense minister, is seen by the Palestinians as more sympathetic to the beleaguered peace process than is Netanyahu. The Israeli president effectively forced the reluctant Netanyahu to meet with Arafat last month by suggesting that he would do so if the prime minister did not.

Weizman had issued a veiled criticism of Netanyahu's inflexibility on Monday, saying, "I am a great believer in personal contacts, but we must put something on the table. We cannot simply say: 'It will be all right.'" But on Tuesday, Weizman said he consulted with Netanyahu before meeting

with Arafat. The Palestinian leader's previous trip to Israel was last November when he secretly paid a nighttime condolence call on Leah Rabin, the widow of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

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King undergoes medical check-ups

AMMAN—His Majesty King Hussein was given a clean bill of health after undergoing a normal routine medical check-up at the Mayo Clinic in the United States. King Hussein's personal physician Dr. Sameer Faraj said the results of the tests were reassuring. He added that the King enjoys excellent health. The King also visited the ruler of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan who is recovering at the Mayo Clinic following neck surgery.

Netanyahu's radicalism forces Arab realignment, experts say

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

The recent bloody events in the occupied territories, triggered by Israel's opening of a tunnel underneath the foundations of Al Aqsa Mosque, have left the peace process in tatters. As a result, the prospect of a total collapse of the five-year peace process appears more likely than ever.

With last-minute attempts to salvage the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, as witnessed in Washington last week and in bilateral talks at the Erez crossing point this week, failing to make an impact, the skeptics among Jordanians and Palestinians are gaining ground.

"Previously we could say that there is a semblance of peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, but now it is clear beyond doubts that the conflict is not resolved," Dr. Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst, said. A critic of the Oslo accord, Dr. Kamhawi said the latest cycle of violence has inflamed the conflict and once

again Palestinians and Israelis are finding themselves separated by crucial issues.

"More Palestinians are convinced today that there can never be peace with the Israelis in the form of normal affairs between the two peoples," he said.

In his view, the two parties can never agree since "what seems to be the minimum accepted by the Palestinians is not acceptable at all by the Israelis."

Other political observers believe Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is solely responsible for the dangerous crisis that the peace process finds itself in today. They believe that internal pressures within his party and coalition government, especially from religious parties, is making him more radical than before.

Such divisions within the Israeli society tend to increase the dangers, according to those who keep a close eye on Israeli politics.

"Israel is in a crisis," said Ghazi Al Sa'di, an expert on

Israeli affairs. "For the first time there is no national unity and if Netanyahu fails to implement agreements reached with the Palestinians, then he faces Palestinian, Arab and international outrage and on the other hand if he does, he will have to fight it out with hawks inside his government."

That leaves Netanyahu with a difficult choice and a political gamble that may cost him his career. "Either he chooses to implement the peace agreement and risk a collapse of his government or turn his back to the agreements in order to save his coalition," Al Sa'di said. So far Netanyahu appears to be making no choice at all by dodging issues and playing for time. Al Sa'di added.

Observers doubt Netanyahu's seriousness in carrying out the peace obligations. They believe he is playing de facto tactics in order to maintain the status quo on the ground.

Netanyahu was forced to go to the Washington summit to

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Political parties in a state of disarray

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

POLITICAL PARTIES are again coming under the limelight. With over 20 parties, most are deemed by the public to be ineffective and lacking either the membership or the party agenda to make them into mass-based parties.

Save parties like the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and Al Ahd, others suffer from lack of finance and are operating on diminishing funds.

Today, barely three years after their legalization, some are on the edge of bankruptcy.

The government has failed to help. Political parties have been asking repeatedly for financial aid, but their appeals, coupled with government inability to decide on the issue, have failed to change a worsening situation.

The government, it is argued by some observers, looks upon political parties with suspicion considering as unfit to join the political system in the country.

Added to that is the problem within the political parties themselves. What it really boils down to in the end is that the

majority of parties lack a political agenda or a unified system of thought. This has been characterized by the increasing number of splits within political parties. Almost every party has faced divisions starting from the leftists and nationalists to the Islamists.

Indeed, the last split has come from within Al Ahd, a party with a strong and coherent ideology. But the party was dealt a blow when 29 of its members resigned in Ajloun.

Observers feel that political parties have not been willing to project a mass image. Again most have been called as no more than talking shops for the elite. This is because some parties have

little more than 50 members within its ranks, which happens to be the number of founding members needed for party registration by the Ministry of Interior. The sad thing is that once parties scrape together these members, they can't seem to go forward and increase the membership.

So today, political parties are in a state of disarray. They have not been able to stand up

to the government. Even the strong IAF party has had some problems in putting a united stand.

In this state of affairs the idea of merger is today gaining greater currency. This, however, seems to be more difficult that it seems. Centrist parties among whom include the *Al Yaqaha*, *Progress and Justice*, *Al Wahdaniyyoon* and *Al Ahd* are moving into a loose federation,

yet the idea of a "unity" is still far away off.

Party leaders, it is argued, have been unwilling to move to this stage simply because of personal attitudes and social rankings. Their is also the element of charisma in these parties. Leaders are seeing their position in terms of social status and are unwilling to come down

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Mediterranean earthquake felt in Amman

AMMAN (Agencies)—An earthquake shook areas in the East Mediterranean Wednesday and scientists expected aftershocks to follow within 24 hours, sources said. Jordanians felt the tremor about 3:30 Wednesday afternoon but no casualties or losses were reported. The Jordan Earthquake Center said the tremor registered 5.9 on the open-ended Richter scale but said its epicenter was about 400 kilometers to the west of Amman off the island of Cyprus.

Two people died, 20 were injured and hundreds of tourists fled swaying hotels in Cyprus when the powerful tremor hit the east Mediterranean region. Egyptian security sources said one woman died in Faheem village, in the Delta province of Gharbiya, when the earthquake destroyed her one-story home.

Cypriot police said a 73-year-old man died of a heart attack as he and other patients were escorted downstairs

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● HARTFORD, Connecticut, USA: President Clinton points to a member of the audience as Republican Presidential hopeful Bob Dole looks on, Oct. 6, after their first national Presidential debate at Trinity College in Hartford. Polls said President Clinton emerged winner in the first of two debates giving him 51 percent. UPI

Video of Princess Di and ex-lover exposed as a hoax

By Fred Barbash
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

LONDON—The videotape of Princess Diana's semi-nude romp with her lover that titillated tabloid readers and TV viewers all day Tuesday turned out Tuesday night to be a fake.

The Sun, the tabloid that obtained the tape, reported it with great fanfare and distributed it to television, admitted that it had been the victim of "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade."

The supposedly secretly recorded videotape of Diana cavorting with lover James Hewitt five years ago was excerpted in still photos by the Sun in the morning and made its television debut Tuesday, all day. It showed, as it happened, a Diana look-alike or perhaps a composite Diana (it isn't clear yet how the hoax was perpetrated) doing a little striptease, down to what was being

politely described as her "sports" underwear. It purportedly showed former cavalry officer Hewitt—her riding instructor at the time—getting down on the floor and pretending to be a horse, with Diana taking a little ride on his back. It concluded with the two cuddling, kissing and laughing on a sofa.

The grainy black-and-white 80-second tape appeared to have been recorded at Highgrove, Prince Charles's country home, through a window using a long-distance lens.

The love affair was real—both Hewitt and Diana have admitted it. But the tape—the Sun admitted Tuesday night—was not.

The paper made the admission after a composite videotape claimed to have proof that it was a fake.

Curiously, Hewitt had earlier in the day lent credence to the tape's authenticity by confirming that the event itself seemed real. Later in the evening Diana, through a spokes-

man, issued a statement saying it wasn't.

The statement from the Sun Tuesday night said: "Today The Sun is in the unhappy position of putting its hands up to falling victim to one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade. We were fooled by cunning fraudsters into believing that a poor quality film of two people frolicking together were the Princess of Wales and her former lover James Hewitt. The Sun apologises profusely to both of them for any hurt or offence caused."

Shortly before that statement, the Daily Mirror announced that it had "irrefutable proof that the footage is false and the people involved are not the princess and Hewitt."

The horseplay tapes had already joined the "Squidgygate" tape (1992) and the "Camillagate" tape (1993) in the archives of invasions of royal privacy. On the Squidgy tape the princess was overheard talking intimately to a male friend, James Glibbey, who called her "Squidgy." The Camilla tapes turned

the tables, recording Prince Charles in intimate conversation with his lover, Camilla Parker Bowles. ■



Diana followed by a reporter. The press got it wrong this time!

World Report

Oh Marbella Cafe Restaurant

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Oh Marbella Cafe Restaurant 863 944

* Manager: Kamel Issawi (20 Years experience in best local restaurants)

Surviving railway reminiscent of past

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

TRAINS CAN be seen whistling and puffing smoke, bringing new passengers to Amman from far away places. Children stand impatiently alongside the tracks wondering about the wonderful surprises the trains are bringing them while women

pray for their husbands return from such places as Damascus. In the past, the railways were considered as long paths of dreams.

Nowadays, people travel for the sheer delight of going on a long journey through the lonely but inviting desert landscape. They are in no hurry as they are not bound by time. Their desire is to enjoy every tiny detail of the sparse surroundings. Only the Jordan Hijaz Railway can provide such an everlasting experience.

With its ancient history and old-fashioned steam-engines and trailers, the railway was established by the Ottomans in 1900.

Preserving its unique features and history, the Hijaz railway is a distinguished milestone in the modern history of Jordan. It is a part of the collective memory of Jordanians whose forefathers have once noticed how locomotives, through penetrating borders, were the pulse of life.

The railway was established in the early part of this century to link the differ-

ent areas under Ottoman rule, especially Syria and Hijaz. It was also aimed to facilitate the pilgrimage process to Mecca. The work started in Ma'an on 2 May 1900 when Sultan Abd Al Hameed ordered the setting up of the Hamidiye Hijaz Railroad. Helped by foreign experts, the Ottoman army and its engineers embarked on building the railroad stations and premises.

The work included the construction of the palace of the late King Abdallah in Ma'an. The palace was later turned into a hotel. The typographical survey was carried out by Ali Rida Al Rikabi and Mukhtar Bek, two engineers from the Ottoman army.

Apart from the main goal behind the railways, which is to extend Ottoman dominance over the areas under its rule, the railway came to serve as a crucial trade route between Jordan and Syria. "There are regular trips every week by our trains to Syria carrying passengers," said Basheer Al Dib'i, the general manager of the Amman station of the Jordan Hijaz Railroad. Besides being used to carry goods between Syria and Jordan, there are frequent school trips and charity outings. The railroad company, working in conjunction with tourist offices and hotels, carry increasing number of holiday makers to both countries.

Although, this is still in its infant stage, it is actually quite significant and has the potential for boosting the tourism sector in Jordan.

Al Dib'i pointed out that tourists come to Jordan especially to see the steam-



Steam locomotives in Amman are a symbol of a bygone age

engines which ceased to operate in their countries. Dating back to the fifties and sixties, the engines and their trailers are viewed by tourists as relics of the past.

The Amman station has two kinds of locomotives: steam- and diesel-engines. Continuous maintenance works are aimed at keeping the old steam locomotives alive. Mr Hami Nsour, the maintenance director, said that the main problem we face when fixing the old trains is the lack of spare parts. "As to diesel-engines there is no problem," he added.

The trip from Amman to the Syrian borders is an unimaginable eight hours. This of course includes stops along the way. Yet this is not tedious as it may sound. For a tourist, who doesn't have a care in the world, this may be enchanting to spend some of his holidays.

But what about the drivers, how can they manage to drive such long hours under the harsh conditions of the desert. Train driver, Mr Hussein Al Dabbah, said

that the main problem is the people living near the railway line. "Children throw stones at us and people walk on the line and peddlers selling their goods literally on the railway." Once, there was a woman who was trying to move her donkey off the rail track forgetting that she herself was still standing on it with me approaching in the distance," Al Dabbah said amusingly.

Al Dib'i said that East Amman was not a populated area in the past as it is now. Thus, the locomotives found no difficulty in moving through the empty land. "We were obliged to set up a public market for those peddlers who used to sell their goods on the railway," he added.

Passing by the Amman station in Al Mahatta with its old, smoke-smudged walls, is just like watching a black and white movie setting that testifies to the originality of the place. The scene takes the viewer back in time when these trains used to take soldiers and pilgrims to their destinies. ■



Abd Rabbo The debate begins

ABD RABBO, the Jordanian satirical weekly, is making waves among Jordanian readers. Among NETS readers, the local on-line e-mail service, the new weekly is creating a bit of a controversy. The first of these innovative writers is Samer Farraj. In a blustery message to the Minister of Information Dr Marwan Al Moasher, he called on the government to take action against *Abd Rabbo*.

He simply could not stomach the cut-and-paste jobs of the newspaper. In Farraj's eyes, the tabloid had gone beyond limits and traditions. "Freedom to write stops when it insults others," he declared in Stop Them Now 23 September. Ask the Government.

This is not the kind of rhetoric you would expect to come out of a mouth of a journalist. Nevertheless, it was not difficult for Farraj to garner support for his views, given the novelty of political satires in a society which has only recently begun to embrace democracy.

"Every time I read one of our weekly newspapers, I feel that censorship has some advantages," said Osama Omari who

referred to the tabloid as meaningless trash. Nasser Majali and Fadi Khouri also agreed that the government should step in—in one way or another—to restore a sense of national pride to the tabloid's flagrant writers.

However, the Minister of Information saw it differently. To Dr Moasher, untamed tabloids were part of the growing pains of the democratization process. "I believe we are presently passing through a transition period in which we will witness many publications that publish articles or photographs many might find offensive. But this is a necessary stage that we have to go through," he explained in response to Samer's outburst in *Re: Stop them now* on 24 September.

Farraj's fury over *Abd Rabbo* aroused the curiosity of other NETS users. "You've

made me really curious about this *Abd Rabbo* thing: I think I'll go out and buy an issue..." proposed Sharif Saifi. Aymen Aladham picked up a copy himself but found to his disappointment that the tabloid's sense of humor was not quite up to par. And Lena Hussein-Shami who also couldn't resist the temptation any longer went out and bought herself an issue. After perusing through the pages of the tabloid, she said,

"*Abd Rabbo* is in no way a threat to democracy. On the other hand, Mr Farraj's demands are..." The arrogant columnist of *Abd Rabbo*, Yusef Ghishan, and using the account of Petra House joined the debate. Calling himself Hoover the Dog, he tried to shake some sense of humor into his critics. "Get real, he said poking fun at them in Hoover the dog @ *Abd Rabbo*—On line (9/25). Democracy. "Life is but a joke," Resorting to a marketing ploy you

would hardly call discreet.

Hoover the Dog proceeded to announce that his next column in *Abd Rabbo* would be taken right out of NETS. And the person who can identify the NETS message would (you guessed it), get a free copy of the following *Abd Rabbo* issue.

For those whose feathers have been ruffled by *Abd Rabbo* or even the nonsensical Hoover the Dog, it would do best to heed the advice of Zaid Nabulsi—if you don't like its sense of humor, just don't buy it!! Or listen to Hussein Awwad—spend your money on something more useful. Or wait, as Marwan Atalla suggests, for these publications to die a natural death from lost credibility or lawsuits. However, for some *Abd Rabbo* was a real insult. Three men attacked Ghishan right at his doorstep last week and swore that there would be more violence. However this wouldn't stop that lovable but apparently infuriating character who just kept on with his brand of commentary.

Observers believe Netanyahu was able to buy some time as a result of the Washington meeting. While he did not commit himself to anything on the ground and his promise to carry out the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron before the American elections was dubious.

They point to the stalemate Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which began near the Erez crossing point this week. Palestinian negotiators complain of new Israeli obstacles and conditions. "So far all the concessions that are requested from the Likud government are Palestinian losses," Kamhawi said. "They are originally issues that were gained by the Palestinians under Oslo accords," so the Palestinians are trying to "minimize their losses and failing to gain anything—this is the bottom line."

Analysis believe Hebron is only one of numerous stumbling blocks that the peace process will be facing along the way. The Palestinians have counted 30 issues that were agreed upon in Oslo agreement, and which Israel has failed to honor. In addition to the Israeli redeployment from Hebron, there is the agreed Israeli withdrawal from B and C areas, the borders, settlements, safe-passage corridors between Gaza and the West Bank and most importantly the Jerusalem issue.

"Redeployment from Hebron will take few more months of negotiations," Kamhawi said. "By that time the Jerusalem tunnel would be an established fact, more settlements would have been established, and the judicialization of Jerusalem would have come a long way."

The observers agree that the victory of Netanyahu and his party in the May elections has put Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and other Arab leaders under pressure because "the results threatened to destroy all that has been negotiated with [Yitzhak] Rabin [Shimon] Peres," Kamhawi said. And this is what is happening now. "Not all Jordanians were for the peace that was concluded, the Palestinians were not with it practically, and the Egyptians have always handled the peace with the Israelis in a cool manner."

Arafat-Weizman meeting overshadows

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On Tuesday, Weizman said he and Arafat spoke about "the recent tragedy of gunfire, losses on both sides, and we decided this kind of thing cannot happen again."

But Israeli and Palestinian negotiators remained at odds over how to prevent violence in the future and how to proceed with the pullback of Israeli troops from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation.

The talks reached an impasse Monday night after each side dismissed the other's proposal for redeployment, and resumed only after US peace envoy Dennis B. Ross intervened.

Israel reportedly is seeking expanded authority for "hot pursuit" of suspected terrorists into areas of Hebron that will

be turned over to Palestinian police; a ban on automatic weapons for Palestinian police; and creation of buffer zones, or areas around Israeli soldiers that would be off-limits to armed Palestinian police.

"The main thing is to have the ability to take action when it is absolutely necessary," said an Israeli official who asked not to be identified.

Israel wants to keep control of the high ground overlooking the Jewish quarter in downtown Hebron, where some 450 Jews live among about 100,000 Palestinians, and of a broader-than-agreed-upon belt linking the Jewish enclave with Ibrahim Mosque, a holy site in Hebron to both Muslims and Jews.

Israel also proposes to retain some civilian authority, including veto power over changes in infrastructure such as the con-

struction of tall buildings that could serve as Palestinian police positions.

The Palestinians rejected all of these as alterations of the detailed interim peace accord that Arafat and Rabin signed last September. They said they will not reopen talks on signed agreements that already include negotiated safeguards for the security of Jews in Hebron, and that the two sides simply have to work out implementation of those existing accords.

To address Israeli concerns stemming from the violence two weeks ago, the Palestinians proposed that the two sides put on more Israeli-Palestinian joint patrols and increase the number of international observers to be based in the city. Israelis say they want their own security, not the protection of foreigners. ■

Netanyahu's radicalism forces

Continued from page 1

"gain time and to cool down tensions in the occupied territories," Al Sa'idi said. "The Israelis and the generals do not want to have a new intifada on their hands," he added. According to him while Israel does not want peace, it certainly does not want a new war."

Observers believe Netanyahu was able to buy some time as a result of the Washington meeting. While he did not commit himself to anything on the ground and his promise to carry out the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron before the American elections was dubious.

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The latest developments have forced Arab leaders to take action. "We are witnessing a new Egyptian thrust and a new role in the region which is very anti-Israel," Kamhawi said.

He and others believe the Egyptians are now being joined by other countries such as Saudi Arabia and Syria in creating a new front that is aimed at curtailing the growing Israeli influence in the area.

"The Egyptians feel that the Israelis are jumping on the band wagon of technology and economics and trying to play a leadership role in the Arab world forcing itself as a political leadership with the strongest military muscles," Kamhawi said.

He said that before the peace process it was pan-Arabism that was leading the struggle against Israel, but now it is the national interest of each and every Arab state that is leading the struggle against Israel. "They are regrouping on the bases of their own interests," he added. "It is not the Palestinian issue that is the driving force behind the state of belligerence between Arabs and Israelis today but the fact that the national interests of every Arab state is in jeopardy now." ■

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SOHDANIAN PAPERS

Keeping it in the family!

COMING HARD on people who abuse children is a subject that should be very dear to our hearts. It is refreshing to see that Jordanian society no longer considers talking about child abuse as taboo and something that was usually brushed under the carpet.

The media, particularly television and newspapers can have a great role in helping to expose this growing phenomenon in society. This week's program on child abuse is something to be commended for its honesty and objectivity. It brought into the open a subject that was long considered within the confines of the family.

The *Hadeeth Annass* (People's Talk, on the Arabic Channel by Iman Najjia was both frank and shocking. It revealed the extent of different forms of child abuse, whether physical or indeed sexual abuse that apparently exists in our society. It is poignant, disturbing and sobering to know that sexual abuse exists in the family against the young, innocent and vulnerable. Kids who can't say no because of fear and shame to what might happen to them.

Indeed the fear is real because of society itself and its very institutions who are incapable of dealing and indeed conceptualizing such a phenomena.

What must happen is that social and legal institutions must go hard on offenders. Abusers must be punished with the full limits of the law. Unfortunately this is not being done. Judges and lawyers are lenient on people who abuse.

On the television program, we got to know the despicable case of a man who systematically sexually abused his children. He was finally locked up for nine years. This is despite the fact that there was abuse also against his wife which the judges did not take into account. The fact that he had a history of sexual abuse against his sister when he was young didn't wash with the judges.

In the end he was imprisoned. But one may argue is this enough? Imprisonment, yes. However, there should be more. A person who does these sorts of acts can only be considered as mentally disturbed and in need of psychiatric help.

The sad thing is that this is not being done. The program pointed to another case where a man was turned away from Al Fuheis Mental Hospital only to turn on his children and wife. Bizarre as it may seem, he was chaining his children only to beat them up.

I wonder what kind of people would these kids grow up to be in society? Would they be the kind who can function, or would they grow up to be morons and mental rejects? Would they turn on their own children, that is if they ever came out of their harrowing experience without mental scars?

In the case of the "chain man," he would beat up his daughter at night, and in turn she would beat up the children at school the next day. A truant, she was kicked out of so many schools. Today, at the age of 14 she spends her time at home.

These might be isolated cases, but they could be a reflection of where society is going to. Again in the last case, the man had no job, but even if he had, would he ever hold it down? It is up to society, to our social institutions to do something, to act quickly. Regardless of the extended family, we are moving more and more to the nuclear family. People are huddled in little boxes, where "in the family" means just that. In such a society, the role of institutions as exemplified in social services becomes crucial. ■

Marwan Asmar

JORDAN TODAY
YOUTHFUL CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
OCTOBER
EARTH'S ESSENCE
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More passengers fly RJ than ever
■ Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ) witnessed a 6.2 percent increase in the number of passengers flying on its planes during the first nine months of this year compared with the same period of last year, a report of RJ's planning department said.
The occupancy rate for seats during the same period reached 67 percent compared with 65.4 percent last year.
The report also declared that its planes carried 51,463 tons of cargo during the first nine months of this year with a 6.1 percent increase from that for last year.
The sources said that the highest growth percentage in passengers and cargo movement were on the far east, Middle east, US, Canada and the Indian peninsula routes.

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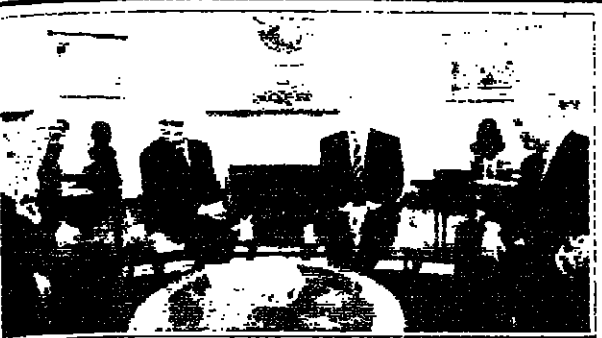
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10 OCTOBER 1996
J O R D A N
THE STAR 3
JORDANIAN PAPER
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Marwan Asmar

JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



King: Washington meet imperative to avoid Middle East catastrophe

■ His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday said that the decision to go to Washington was imperative in order to avoid an immediate catastrophe in the Middle East.
His Majesty expressed in an interview with the London-based *Al Sharq Al Ahsan* newspaper his sadness towards the status of the peace process in the Middle East and that narrow and closed minded people are now in control because conditions now are against peace in the region. He totally rejected the opening of the tunnel under the holy sites in Jerusalem noting that Netanyahu wanted to say through such a move that Israel has the sole sovereignty over Jerusalem which undermines the basis of the Oslo accords.
His Majesty said that the Israeli Prime Minister should deal with the Palestinians as equal partners in peace and to act accordingly without patronizing them.
He noted that the situation in the Arab world can be described as a very critical psychological moment of anger and despair, and that people feel that they lost hope which is a very dangerous feeling.
Concerning the situation in Iraq, His Majesty said that Jordan fully supports the unity and integrity of the Iraqi people and expressed hope that the nightmare of the Iraqi people would not be long.
He noted that Jordan is a democracy where the public opinion has a significant role, pointing out that there is a group of people which opposes peace and that the masses would draw their own conclusions if the current conditions continued to prevail.

Ammarin: Determined to resign

■ It's all go this week. With the looming of the next ordinary session of Parliament, Karak deputy Nazih Ammarin is still sticking to his guns. He told a gathering that he won't go back on his resignation from the Lower House if the reasons behind it are not dealt with. He said that there were efforts currently going on to persuade him to withdraw his resignation, but he said that these won't succeed. He said that he will unveil "secrets" that relate to his case during the next parliamentary session if he does not receive a clear apology from the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdel Karim Al Kabariti.

DUP head resigns from post

■ It looks as if the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mustapha Sheikhat may be facing trouble. However, this time it is from his own Democratic Unity Party (DUP), that amalgamation of curiosities of leftists and nationalists vanguards. The general secretary of the party, Dr. Bassam Al Saket, has recently submitted his resignation because the executive council of the DUP wouldn't issue a statement to expel or at the very least "freeze" the membership of Dr. Sheikhat for continuing to be a member of the government.

They never learn!

■ Shooting for joy at weddings is a dangerous business; quite frequently they do cause accidents. We keep telling them that but they never learn. Recently as many as 11 people were injured at a wedding because of a shot gun that misfired. Feeling happy, the man was about to use his gun to fire into the air, instead he lost control and the gun misfired into a crowd of people. Now come on you lot out there, is this the kind of civilized behavior that we want to project.

Assault on Supply inspectors

■ Something quite disturbing is happening in society. Well, one case actually. It was reported this week in the press that two officials from the Ministry of Supply were attacked while they were carrying out their duty inspection. The inspectors entered a butcher's shop in Tareq and was set upon. The butcher was actually slaughtering sheep in his shop, something that is against health rules. They also found that the butcher was actually selling meat which is not officially stamped by the authorities. Such a stamp is important because it shows the kind, source and price of meat. The officials fined him, but he would not accept that. After much argument, they were set upon by another man who came from inside the shop and started hitting the officials with empty bottles. The men had to be taken to hospital.

JPA calls for a solution to the Foad Hussein case

■ Jordan's Press Association (JPA) is calling on the government to free Foad Hussein. The journalist, who is a member of the association and heads the Freedom Committee of the JPA, has been held in custody without charge for the last month and a half. In a statement, the JPA says that the holding of Hussein represents an attack on Jordan's democratic experiment and argues that the government should turn him over to the court's concerned if it feels that there is evidence against him. The association is willing to work with the government to find a way out of what it calls "this crisis."

Italian frigate in Jordan

■ An Italian combat frigate arrives in the Aqaba port, today, Thursday. Named "Espero", the ship will be moored in the Muta Berth. The frigate is currently undergoing its navigation campaign in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Tomorrow, Friday, 11 October there will be a reception on board the ship. Invited guests include members from the civil and military authorities as well as from the diplomatic corps. The ship can be visited by the public on Sunday 13 October between 13 pm till 19 pm.



■ His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, paid a visit to Ad Dustour Arabic daily Wednesday and met with its editors and reporters. The Prince stressed the need for a more comprehensive approach to covering news with a link to the human dimension. Speaking to editors he called for what he described as an anthropological treatment of issues. He was received by the publisher of Ad Dustour Mr. Mahmoud El-Sherif.

Violence against women

Myth or reality?

By Manal Omar
Special to The Star

A MAN once approached the Prophet Mohammed and asked: who is the dearest to you? The Prophet responded simply, "my mother." The man pressed, "then who?" The Prophet repeated, "my mother." When the man asked a third time he was given the same answer. This is only one example from the Islamic tradition's emphasis on women. The conservative society that Jordan is enveloped in has painted a picture of family strength. However, the growing level of violence against women is calling into question the foundation of this society. The respect and admiration for Arab women appears to belong to a long lost myth.

This can happen in our society. But violence is so entrenched, explains Dr. Mustafa Shteiwi, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Jordan and the President of the Society Free of Violence. "The major problem is a refusal to acknowledge the problem."
Nour Al Imam, a lawyer working with the JWU agrees with Shteiwi's assessment. "It's a problem with society, not just the law. The law is equal to both men and women in regards to abuse," Al Imam told *The Star*. However, Al Imam says the law must be changed with regards to honor killings. According to the Penal Code, a man who commits an honor crime against any female relative is exempted from punishment provided that the family drops the charges. In addition, those who are penalized often serve very lenient sentences.

The rapid increase in violence against women raises significant concern not merely in women's issues, but in the future of our society as a whole. Dr. Shteiwi explains that "Jordan has shifted its economic structure, it has moved towards a modern economy. There is a shift in gender roles, and the authority in the family is being redefined."
Such social pressures are undoubtedly a cause for the rise in violence in the communities. According to Fakhouri, 85 percent of the crimes committed against women are from men who are unemployed. At the same time, as women begin to assert their control and begin a search for equal rights, they unknowingly challenge their spouses "manhood."



Layla Al Bannan, a psychiatrist working with the JWU, explains that a stereotype has developed that hitting your wife proves your manhood. The UNICEF report supports Al Bannan's claim by concluding that "the root cause of gender-based violence is unequal power relationships between men and women." Al Bannan explains that this stereotype has affected all men, not merely those from a low income or uneducated background.
It is crucial to realize that the

effects of violence against women does not only affect the victims involved. Rather, society as a whole is victimized. According to the Jordanian Women's Union, 50 percent of women who are beaten by their husbands will beat their children. In turn, these children will adopt a violent and unhealthy lifestyle in society. At the same time, physical or mental abuse leads to miscarriages and birth defects. In addition, an increase in violence against women usually indicates a society's refusal to adapt to change. According to UNICEF, "gender-based violence is an obstacle to development." At the same time the report proves that the violence against women reflects men's fear of losing their traditional position of superiority within the family.

The picture painted through Arab heritage and strong family ties is slowly being distorted. Yet it does not have to fade out of sight. There are many steps that the community can make to solve the current problems. One of the first and perhaps most crucial steps is educational awareness. Dr. Shteiwi explains that there is a need for studies to be conducted to accurately address the issue in Jordan.

Mona Zughbaba, another lawyer with the JWU, said that a workshop is to be held in December to discuss changes in laws that need to be made to improve the status of women. In addition to awareness, an outreach program needs to be developed. This step is crucial in the healing process of both the victims and the society. As president of the anti-violence society, Dr. Shteiwi said that the stress should be on prevention and not just punishment.

Prince Hassan calls for a Jerusalem data bank

AMMAN—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called on Monday during a visit to *Al Ra'i* newspaper for the setting up of a data bank on all issues related to Jerusalem and the implementation of agreements on the ground. "We should establish a data-base information project under the title of (Jerusalem in the conscience)," he said. The Prince went on to say that while the recent developments in Arab east Jerusalem following Israel's opening of a new entrance to a controversial tunnel were of "grave anxiety" to Jordan, they also gave the Kingdom an opportunity to address the issue of the holy city to the whole world.
Crown Prince Hassan also emphasized the importance of gaining international support for Arab causes and the Arab identity. On another level, Prince Hassan underlined the vital role of the press in dealing with the various dimensions of Arab life, and referred to a few issues of main concern to the media such as the problem of Palestinian refugees.
The Regent went on to call the media to highlight Jordan's status as a distinguished host of refugees in meetings of donors to the programs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). ■

Political parties in a state of disarray

Continued from page 1
to the rank and file of the party.
What has happened in Ajloun in the *Al Ahd* party is a classic example of that. The disaffected members have argued that one of the reasons for the split was because the party leadership had stopped listening to the rank and file. And it is argued that the government has exploited this situation, narrowing down the interest of the leadership of political parties with that of its own.
However, the government continues to be weary of some of these political parties. The IAF for example is a force to be reckoned with.
The government knows this and that is why one hears of about overtures made by the government to this party. If this is true, however, it would mean taking the lynchpin out of democratic politics. ■

Mediterranean earthquake

Continued from page 1
at Limassol General Hospital during the tremor. The tremor was also felt in Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. In Cyprus the earthquake measured between 6.2 and 6.5 on the Richter scale and its epicenter was 40 km (25 miles) south-west of Cyprus in the Paphos area. There was minor damage to buildings in Paphos and the nearby port city of Limassol. Landslides were also reported in south-west Cyprus. ■

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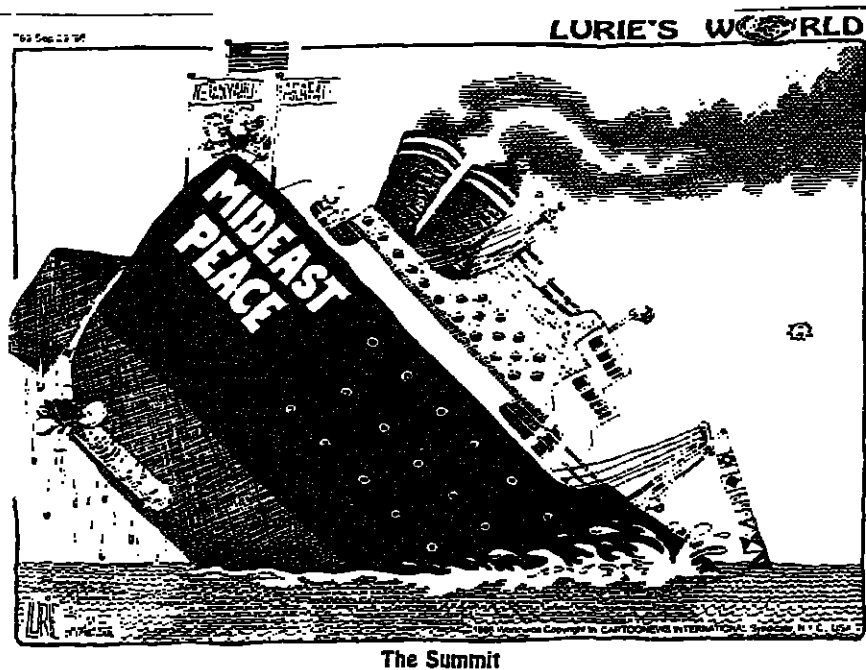
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The Summit

Our Say...

King's warnings must be heeded

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's statements to the London-based *Asharq Al Awsat* newspaper this week reflect a rising sense of apprehension at the fate of the Middle East peace process in the wake of Israel's unilateral decision to open a controversial tunnel nearby Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the bloody events that followed.

It would be an understatement to say that the King's parlance represented a stringent warning to the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, not to revert to the siege mentality that has characterized Israel's dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict for decades. The King hinted that such attitude could easily jeopardize the peace agreements that Israel has negotiated so far with its Arab neighbors.

At the center of the King's apprehension is the issue of Arab Jerusalem and the holy sites contained within. The King reiterated that Jerusalem is not a Jewish problem, but of immediate concern to millions of Muslims and Christians around the world and that the opening of the tunnel has undermined the Oslo agreement.

The King's statements will add to Mr Netanyahu's troubles at home and in the international arena. Jordan has been working closely with the previous Israeli government towards creating a new political environment in the region in which agreements are respected and a vision of cooperation and hope is worked out.

The enemies of peace were on the retreat as new realities were being created on the ground and the promise of peace and security for all became the foundation of political and economic doctrine in the Middle East.

But the King, who insisted that the peace camp on both side of the political divide still represents the majority, also warned that unless Mr Netanyahu deals with the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular as true partners, the alternative to peace could be uglier than anyone can imagine.

A growing sense of frustration among the people can easily turn into uncontrollable anger where people would be forced to forfeit hope and invite war and calamity upon themselves and the region as a whole.

The Israeli leader, who is now finding himself hostage to his own narrow minded and grotesque dogma, is holding the peace process for ransom and driving the region into the direction of fundamentalism and extremism. He must not be allowed to do so.

It is disgraceful that while the United States, which has appointed itself as the region's caretaker, is unable to rescue a process that has consumed much time and effort on everybody's part. It is preventing others, such as its European allies, from getting involved in the process and therefore change the perception of the issue from being a domestic one for the US leadership. The stakes are too high, and while Mr Netanyahu has made a special skill of losing friends and allies everywhere, he knows that at least until the end of the US presidential elections he can avoid substantial pressure from Washington. But as the King has hinted, any further fall towards a bleak psychological point could spell collapse for the whole peace camp. ■

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for information on region

To The Editor,

I want to praise your on-line publication *The Star*. I am an American Jew, living in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. I have always been actively interested (and I hope reasonably informed) about happenings in the Middle East. But in the last six months I have been using the Web to keep informed of events in the Middle East. *The Jerusalem Post* is, I think, the only English language daily for Israel; but I have had some difficulty finding English language news published in Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia or any other Arab States.

Especially after the shameful actions of the Likud government in recent days, I am very eager to be able to get news like that you are presenting here on-line, in the English language. So I want to thank you for that.

I also want to express, for what it is worth, my deep opposition and sorrow for

the direction that the Israeli government now seems to insist on following. It is so painful to watch the current Israeli government dashing so much of the hope that so many of us felt a little more than a year ago. The Likud does seem intent not only on "having it all" but also on having relationship with the Palestinians be one based on humiliation. A very sad state of affairs. And it makes me so more and more just how consequential was the assassination of Mr Rabin.

Thank you again and I would love to hear more about *The Star* or other English language publications published in Jordan.

Yours Sincerely,

Joshua Micah Marshall
Providence, Rhode Island
Joshua Micah Marshall, Executive Director
College Hill Internet Consultants
<http://www.collegehill.com>
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A View from America

Desert Storm was a pyrrhic victory

By Carrie Nelle Moye
US Star correspondent

IN 1991 US citizens were filled with self-adulation regarding our Gulf War triumph. We had been successful in "rescuing Kuwait" and in securing Saudi Arabia from the onslaught of Iraqi madman Saddam Hussein.

But was Desert Storm a pyrrhic victory? Exclude the fact that we were fighting to preserve our access to oil, not the preservation of a tiny state. (Indeed, had that been the case, Bosnia would have been saved. More obviously, Palestine would be an autonomous state today.) Forget that once we became offensive in our moves against Saddam, bragging about our pin-point accuracy with our "smart bombs," we killed thousands of civilians but made no real attempt to eradicate Saddam, although this would have been a blessing to the world, especially the Iraqis.

The reason the 1991 conquest was a pyrrhic victory is just now being officially acknowledged. First it was 5,000, then 15,000, now 25,000 men and women who were exposed to both Iraqi chemicals stored in plants which we bombed and anti-chemical medication which our troops were ordered to take ostensibly to counteract just such chemicals with which they might come into contact.

Is 25,000 the final number? I very much doubt it. From the way the news is developing it might well be more like 100,000. Regardless of the number, we have learned that the drug given to the US men and women combatants was experimental at best. Their uniformed forces were not told this.

Indeed, when numerous persons went to supervisory personnel and even to medical teams, they were told their symptoms (headaches, stomach cramping, diarrhea, bloody stools) were superficial or as a result of some other minor "bugs." Their immediate supervisors were just as unaware themselves that they were ordering our troops to take unproved medication.

We have yet to learn how far down from the top the truth was known. We have yet to learn precisely what the truth is. We do know that the Pentagon now acknowledges



Scenes like these now account for the "Gulf War Syndrome," something that is affecting many US servicemen today

that the "Gulf War Syndrome" (and that is a misleadingly poor name for this major malady, as there seems to be a "syndrome" for any ache or pain that exists) is a reality, not superficial complaints made by hypochondriacs. And it seems fairly certain that Pentagon officials are not sure precisely what all—and who all—is involved.

Doubtless every person reading this has talked to at least one individual who has complained ever since returning from that war in the desert that s/he has had medical problems which s/he feels are directly related to the war.

The young man who first told me of his situation has had cancerous tumors removed from various parts of his body. Further, he says that over half his platoon buddies have suffered the same experience. Thus far he has been unable to get the government to pay his medical bills. (He is in the reserves and does not qualify for full medical benefits.)

The last weekend of September, a num-

ber of Gulf War veterans were interviewed on network television and told of their various physical problems. A number of them are now cripple, one has constantly bloody stools, the cause of which his physician has been unable to diagnose, yet another is totally incontinent and has been since before returning from her Desert Storm tour.

It is even more frightening to realize that evidently no one knows precisely what the illnesses are other than the amorphous "syndrome" what really caused the damage, the preventive medication or exposure to Iraqi chemicals—or both; and most importantly just how many of our men and women have been affected, either earlier or perhaps latently.

But we saved our oil resources. And Schwarzkoff is a hero of enormous stature. What does it matter that we have heaven-only-knows how many thousands of men and women who have been disabled in a variety of ways? A pyrrhic victory indeed. ■

The tunnel under Al Aqsa and the Middle East peace process

Dr Abdullah Al Ahsan

THE MIDDLE East peace process seems to be on a reverse course after the latest violence that killed about 70 people, mostly Palestinians, which was provoked by Israel's opening of a tourist tunnel under the Aqsa mosque.

After Mr Netanyahu declined Mr Mubarak's invitation to settle the issue through negotiations, President Clinton has taken the initiative to invite Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu to Washington for discussion.

However, Mr Netanyahu has already declared that the tunnel under the mosque will not be closed under any circumstances. The US government will now try to understand why Israel is not willing to compromise on this issue.

This is important for the US government particularly on the eve of the presidential election. Keeping in view the US government's records, it may be assumed that it will ask the Palestinians also to understand the Israeli position and to compromise with Israeli demands.

The Israeli government had undertaken the project of archaeological excavations in the area several years ago with the hope of finding remains of Israelites of the pre-Christian era. But to their extreme disappointment they have only found Islamic remains so far.

Yet they are trying to establish that historical Jerusalem belonged to the Jews by falsifying documents and by interviewing "American tourists" who went to visit the tunnel 29 September through pro-Israeli western media.

Some of these tourists got the smell of 4000 years of Jewish history through that tunnel. Such interviews were broadcast by the British Broadcasting Authority (BBC). Will the world community accept this?

The issue of the tunnel concerns not only the Palestinians, but also Muslims and Christians elsewhere, and indeed every human being with clear conscience and knowledge of history all over the world. It is this understanding that is reflected in numerous resolutions adopted by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) ever since its inception nearly three decades ago.

What can the OIC do under

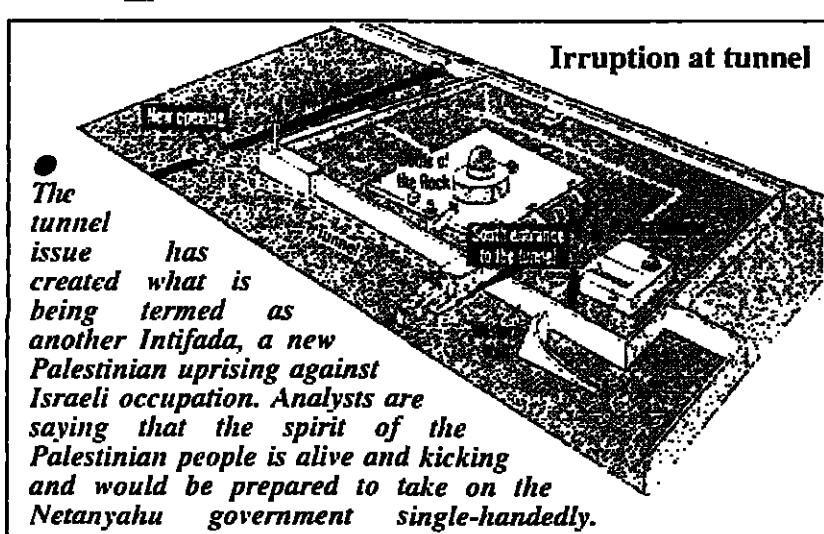
the circumstances? In our opinion it can do the following with immediate effect:

- Sever diplomatic ties with Israel and expel all Israeli diplomats from all OIC countries.
- Create pressure on all world bodies to expel Israel and express clearly that Israel has to learn civilised behaviour in order to be a part of the world community.
- Disqualify all business companies having ties with Israel from business dealings in all OIC countries. This should include individual business ex-

ecutives visiting Israel. Palestinians and other Arab and Muslim countries have been engaged in political negotiations for some time. This has been proved to be ineffective. Now the policy of diplo-

macy should be given a chance. ■

Dr Abdullah Al Ahsan is an academic living in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.



Middle East peace lost!

By: Fadi Zanayed

THE OUTCOME of the White House Summit between President Bill Clinton and his Middle Eastern guests had no particular winner, but it did have one major loser—Middle East Peace. While Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the news media may think that he has won by not closing the tunnel that sparked the controversy and not setting a date definite when Israeli troops will be pulled out of Hebron, the real winners, on both sides, are the opponents of peace. If Netanyahu claims victory then he is with the opponents of peace.

Every policy visavia the peace process during Netanyahu's first 100 days in office indicates that he is the enemy of peace. He is clever, however, to not let his US public appearances give that image. Yet his actions speak louder than his words.

Time after time he has obstructed the peace process by violating the Oslo Agreements. He obstructs the peace process by refusing to remove Israeli troops from Hebron, by restarting the building of illegal settlements, by resuming the Israeli practice of demolishing Palestinian homes and by not releasing Palestinian political prisoners.

On the other hand, the Palestinians have bent over backwards to please the Israelis. The Israeli government asked President Yasser Arafat to clamp down on Hamas, he did; to close down Palestinian National Authority offices in Jerusalem, he did; to

hold democratic elections, he did. Netanyahu, with his clever tongue, cannot point to one Palestinian violation of the Oslo Agreements or else he would have.

Now after the White House Summit, where are we. We are at the status quo before this recent crisis started. The scheduled non-stop talks that began last Sunday are another delay tactic by Netanyahu.

What is Netanyahu's strategy? To give the peace process a slow death, making the cause of the death the fault of the Palestinians. He has provoked the Palestinians by building the tunnel. This is a direct provocation because the past three Israeli administrations, including Likud administration of Yitzhak Shamir, were advised that opening the tunnel would cause unrest with the Palestinians.

He has caused the unrest. The tunnel issue was the turning of the ignition that propelled the anger over the collective anti-peace policies of Netanyahu.

If Netanyahu was a supporter of peace he would have extended an olive branch to the Palestinians. By not yielding on any of these violations and on the tunnel issue, Netanyahu may have appeared to win. Yet the real loser is the peace process itself. ■

Fadi Zanayed is Chicago Chapter President of the Palestinian American Congress.

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

Afghan Tribulations

THE HISTORICAL heroes of the Khybar Pass, and the modern time mujahideens of the Salang Pass, had their legacy turned upside down by the self-seeking proteges under the name of Islam, and the building of the Kingdom of God on earth.

It was ironic to hear the new *de facto* Afghanistani Foreign Minister, Mr Rabbani (no relation to the ex-president) appeal to the better nature of the international community to help his country which is suffering from the consequences of the civil war.

Mr Rabbani did not include in his appeal, the forces of power which brought his group to power in Kabul. A student movement emerging from the ranks of the young as the name Talaban indicates, it manages to defeat the combined forces of the strong warlord, Imam Hikmatyar, and the official army of the ex-president Rabbani.

The sophisticated weaponry at their disposal, the well fed and well kept army of recruits will not make their appeal for aid more credible than the credit they have with the merchants of death. When Foreign Minister Rabbani rejects attempts of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, he is giving the impression that no one has interfered.

The whole world has been involved in the Afghan problem. No country with its sanity intact wishes to be involved in the Afghan quagmire, but Mr Rabbani ought to know in no uncertain terms, that when he speaks in the name of Islam, neither himself nor anybody else has a monopoly. The imposition of primitive legislations, and the barbarous practices against Afghan women are sadistic manifestations of a group who have lost touch with reality.

What right does Mr Rabbani and the rest of the gang have in denying women of their most basic component of their self-respect: the right to be educated? There is nothing in the words of God, nor in the *Sunna* any shred of evidence to support the claims of those self-styled Muslims and charlatans. Their only legitimacy is the gun, and their tanks can drive over as many alcoholic beverages as possible, but that will never take away the dark spots in their malignant hearts.

Even the worst cynics cannot doubt our sincerity, for in defending our faith we do not intend to please anyone, as it is very clear that the Americans are most willing to open negotiations with Taliban providing the latter wishes to. Be it double standards or otherwise, the Americans will do whatever suits their own interests. It is high time that we act as Muslims in union to defend what our faith stands for, before we stagnate in the progress of humanity.

The struggle for supremacy is far from over in Afghanistan. The Pashtu Taliban, are now putting themselves against the Uzbeks, Commander Shan Masoud is only a small fry in the current confrontation, but Gen. Rashid Rostoum may prove different. His natural depth is the ex-Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan and his army is well disciplined and well mannered. The common denominator among all the combatants, seems to be that they are all well equipped militarily, well fed, and suffer no diseases. Perhaps that is the main reason why the war continues, for there are no more average Afghans left in the country; being either dead or left in a mass exodus. It makes sense then to assume that it is only natural to fight until death for the victorious parties will end up ruling over the defeated, as the whole country seems to be inhabited now by combatants only. Perhaps it is too late for us Muslims to save Afghanistan now, but it is certainly detrimental, that we save our faith from the clutches of those who are abusing it daily. ■

Middle East
by Khairi Jank
Afghan
Tribulation

Business scene

The Jordanian Preparatory Committee for the Cairo Economic Summit for the Middle East and North Africa has already made a list of 25 development projects to be discussed at the summit scheduled next November. Dr Youssef Mansour, a member of the committee said.

The projects which cost about \$4 billion and cover productive fields related to energy, industry and minerals, transport, improving industrial ports at Aqaba, telecommunications, tourism and water transport project (Al Dessi water).

The vice chairman of the Amman Investment Bank, Dr Maher Shukri said that five years ago, the bank started to implement a reform program in order to reach the required financial and monetary rates to enable it perform its banking operations. The reforms involve restructuring its capital by cutting it from JD 15 million to JD 5 million. Ten million dinars of accumulating losses will be written off then the capital will be raised to JD 20 million through private subscription. The Central Bank agreed to provide the Amman Investment Bank with the sufficient financial aid to cover the accumulating losses.

The chairman of the Agricultural Lending Corp., at Ajloun, Mr Abdul Fattah Al Jayussi said that the corporation offers farmers facilitated loans to enable them to develop their lands and achieve self-sufficiency. The loans given to farmers in Ajloun in the last two years reached JD 405,237, Al Jayussi said.

They were restricted to qualified farmers especially those with low income or are unemployed.

The technical committee in the Ministry of Planning held a meeting in Washington last week to discuss a \$120 million loan to be given to Jordan from the World Bank for development projects. The World Bank has given its primary approval of the loan, which is to be submitted to the Bank's board of directors for final approval.

Economists give Cairo Summit a cool reception

AMMAN (Star)—The Cairo economic summit scheduled 12-14 November will take place after all. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak recently announced. It was given and take up till the last minute. Egypt argued as late as last August that the summit could be put off if Israel continues its foot-dragging tactics on the peace process especially with regards to the Palestinians.

Very soon both the Egyptian and Israeli media joined the fray.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu criticized Mubarak's threats to cancel the Cairo summit. But the Egyptian response was tough. Some Egyptian officials even called for halting normalization with Israel describing Netanyahu as being "psychologically sick."

However, later on, President Mubarak said that the summit will be held on time. "We won't impose any stance on any state, we shall hold it since it is to our benefit, and every state is free to participate," he said.

The agenda for the summit has already been prepared under the title of "building for the future."

On the first day (12 November) the opening session will convene under the title "peace and economic development." Following will be sessions discussing the investment environment, government role in attracting foreign investments, opening worldwide markets, discussing monetary and financial measures and identifying the rela-

tionship between human resources, the successful economy and social policies.

Other subjects to be tackled are the regional bank, the reforms required to create a joint investment climate, the peace process and risks of competition. There will be workshops on chemical industries, data technology, contracting sectors, financial services and foodstuff industries.

In Jordan there opinion varies. There are those who have doubts about the convening of the summit amidst what they call the "cloudy climate that prevails in the Middle East" as a result of the latest Israeli violations.

Economist Dr Tayseer Abdul Jabbar says that there is a big difference between the atmosphere that preceded the Casablanca and Amman economic summits and the current situation.

Before, although the peace process was moving slowly, there was optimism about the establishment of the Middle East Regional Bank, regional councils for business and tourism, the preparations of studies on wide range of investment projects and the reconstruction of the Middle East.

The last Israeli aggression on the holy sites in Jerusalem has become devoid of its content, some argue. The United States also, being a sponsor of the peace process, cannot at present make any pressure on Israel to adhere to peace agreements, Dr Jabbar says.

Rather, the American administration is busy with the presidential elections.

In this respect, it seems that holding the Cairo Summit is not expected to benefit the region. There are two alternatives, the economic expert maintains: The summit should

be either postponed until April, May, or even November, 1997 or convening it on time. But insisting on holding it, amid expectations that only few countries will only attend, will certainly lead to more differences or failure, Dr Jabbar maintains.

Other analysts also favor the postponing of the summit until a more "opportune moment," and another chance for the creation of the fruits of peace, a catchword that became immersed in the political dictionary of the Middle East in 1995.

Furthermore, they argue that holding it next month would only turn it into a media celebration.

But they argue that if Israel continues with its hardline stances then it will be the loser, foregoing the establishment of regional economic cooperation. Already, Qatar is putting its normalization process with Israel on hold.

The resolutions of the Casablanca and Amman economic summits calling for joint ventures with Israel are strained because of Israeli hardline policy.

A different and interesting point of view is provided by Riad al Khouri, a well-known

economist in Amman. He takes the opposite stand.

He told The Star that the Cairo Summit will be important for Egypt simply because it is a bigger country and has a lot to gain by way of investments. "It has a market of 60 million people" and therefore what it would be looking for is "mass consumption projects."

He doesn't believe that the summit should be postponed. "If we wait for a good political atmosphere, we may have to wait for another 50 years. Expressing a pessimistic tone, he said that there will always be problems in the region, and I think we should go ahead and work on the principle."

The economists says that "the summit will be a good opportunity for Jordan and I don't think we should wait."

He adds that "Jordan may benefit more from the Cairo Summit because its going to be seen in a different light, simply because of an ally of Egypt, or as a country that is very close to Egypt." This is very important because of Egypt's strength.

But again there are people who say why have another summit to implement economic plans. "If they have the intention and desire to make such projects, they will not need an economic summit to provide them with schemes or plans."

"We are in need to coordinate an Arab stance to postpone the Cairo Summit, in order to have a greater opportunity, one analyst maintained."

The resolutions of the Casablanca and Amman economic summits calling for joint ventures with Israel are strained because of Israeli hardline policy

Creative thinking skills have to be learnt says expert

AMMAN (Star)—The brain is a wonderful system of storing information. Yet it has to be taught to develop and to think both creatively and constructively according to Dr Edward de Bono.

At the invitation of Ms Dina O Faidi, who also works as a Business Development Manager at the Intermarkets, and the Amman World Trade Center, Dr de Bono was in Jordan to talk about his ideas to Businessmen and educators.

Dr de Bono says that intelligence is a "human potential, whereas thinking is a skill. He compared it driving a car and says it is only just as good as the person behind it.

The world renowned authority, who wrote a total of 53 books on the subject, says that creative thinking is a learnable process. "We have to teach them to think," in a constructive manner. What this actually

means is training your mind, opening it to innovative ideas and leaving the rigidity of conventional patterns of thought.

"If you are inhibitive you can't be creative," Dr de Bono says. He adds that the brain is designed to create and make patterns which it then uses them.

Dr de Bono has devised a number of techniques and methods to help establish what he calls as "lateral logic." Thus there is lateral or parallel thinking approach, the technique of provocation and that of the six hat method.

At first sight these might seem abstract jargons designed for the highbrow. Not so. These



are systematic and organized tools to enable one to reach the most effective decisions. I say reach because they are arrived at after very careful thinking and after much "pooling of ide-

as. Dr de Bono's techniques, methods and perspectives have been particularly welcomed by major international corporations. He worked with such giants as Shell, British Petroleum, Exxon, Motorola, Du Pont, Ford, Siemens, KLM, British Airways, Kodak, the Union Bank of Switzerland and Barclay's and Midland Bank. These are only to name but a few.

These diverse show just how invaluable the ideas of Dr de Bono can be. Lateral thinking can be applied from the most simple to the most sophisticated.

"What on earth can Dr de Bono do to such technical giants as Ericsson and the Exxon oil company, it might be asked?"

Well for him it is a question of method and using your thinking tools in a correct way, or in common parlance, quite simply "scratching your head."

Starting in 1969 when his first book *The Mechanism of Mind* was published, Dr de Bono came to be something of a celebrity. By the 1990's and 1980's the world was "hooked." His ideas came to be taught in schools in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Canada and some parts of the United States.

Although this is the first time for Dr de Bono to be in Jordan, his ideas are well known. In the Jubilee school for instance, his books are part of the curriculum.

"The single most important thing which any government can do is to teach constructive thinking to its youngsters, that is the basis for any kind of development," he points out.

RJ and Afkar Promoseven enter partnership

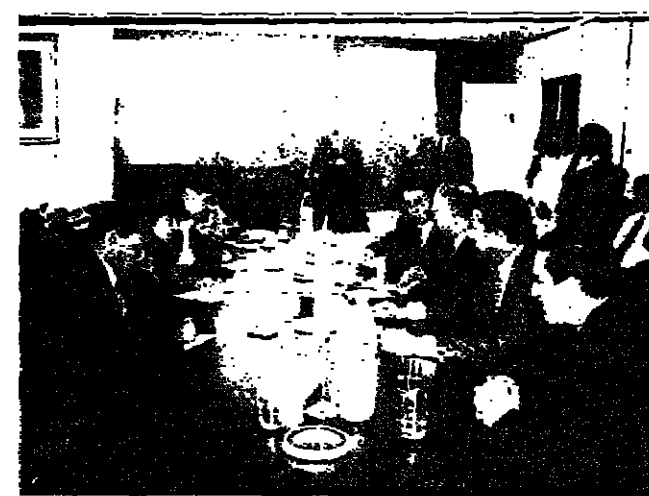
ROYAL JORDANIAN and Afkar Promoseven for Advertisement, Marketing and Public Relations last week, concluded a partnership contract according to which the latter serves as the RJ's advertising agent on all of the airline's network in the five continents.

Afkar Promoseven, according to this contract, will do its best to promote the image of RJ which is an international and reputable airline on both the regional and global levels.

RJ's high standard services to its passengers, its modernized fleet, its highly competent crew and its best customer's service.

Afkar Promoseven Jordan is one of 14 branches of the Promoseven Group, the international agency for advertisement, marketing and public relations.

Its activities cover all of the Middle East area in addition to Europe and the United States. Promoseven offers its services for some well-known



international companies such as Boeing, BMW, Coca Cola, McDonald's and the Standard Chartered Bank.

With RJ joining this group, Afkar Promoseven have reinforced its high ranking position in the Jordanian market. Also, this has boosted its competi-

tiveness in the field of advertisement.

The two sides, through this new partnership, hope to establish stable and strong relationship that enables both of them to achieve fruitful results on local, regional and global aspects.

USAir registers increase in traffic

USAIR's traffic increased by 5.6 percent in scheduled service for September 1996 as compared to 1995. The system load factor was 62.4 percent up from 62.1 percent in September a year ago.

Domestic traffic increased by a percent over 1995 while available seat miles were up two percent. International traffic was up 6.7 percent and international ASMS increased 53.9 percent reflecting continuing growth from new service to several European cities. The number of passengers boarded in scheduled service during the

month was down slightly from September 1995 to 422,807 from 423,824. The average passenger journey was 700 miles up 5.9 percent.

For the first nine months of this year total traffic in scheduled services was up a percent with domestic traffic down by 0.6 percent and international up by 26.7 percent. Enplanements were down 1.6 percent, when compared to the same period in 1995. Total available seat miles for the period were down 5.2 percent with domestic ASMA down 6.7 percent and international up by 20.6 per-

cent. Scheduled system load factor for the period was up 4.3 points to 68.6 percent. The average passenger journey was up by 2.8 percent to 685.7 miles.

For the third quarter of 1996 compared to the same quarter a year ago scheduled enplanements were up 2.2 percent revenue, passenger miles were up 6.3 percent and available seat mile were up 1.3 percent, loading to a 3.3-point increase in load factor to 69.8 percent. Average passenger journey increased 4.1 percent to 712 miles.

MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philadelpia Bank 3.79 Amman Investment Bank 3.70 National Portfolio Security 2.50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commercial Center 4.98 International Ceramic Industries 3.75 Arab Financial Investment 3.65 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commercial Center 3.92 Wool Industries 3.10 Amman Investment Bank 3.45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle East Complex 1.43 Al Zorqa Education and Invest 1.80 Jordan Int'l Trade Center 1.61
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock and Poultry 5.19 International Trade 4.58 National Plastic Industries 4.43 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock and Poultry 5.48 National Plastic Industries 3.13 Arab Electrical Industries 1.92 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amman Construction 5.45 Livestock and Poultry 4.35 Arab Electrical Industries 3.92 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock and Poultry 4.55 International Trade 4.17 Ceramic Industries 2.41
General Price Pointer 147,630	147,730	147,800	147,310
Trade Volume 304467	599113	348048	462425
Stock Volume 362242	396329	392195	576744

Highest Traded Stocks				
Livestock & Poultry 43.798	Jordan Refinery 111.665	Livestock & Poultry 87.582	Livestock & Poultry 79.960	

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

The ROC and the Asia-Pacific Regional Operations Center Plan

ON JANUARY 5, 1995, the ROC government officially unveiled the Asia-Pacific Regional Operations Center (APROC) Plan. The aim of this ambitious program is to propel Taiwan into the next century by transforming the island into an operations center for the Asia-Pacific region.

Taiwan is uniquely endowed to succeed in this endeavor. Centrally located in East Asia, the island lies close to the markets of both Southeast Asia and mainland China. A highly skilled local work force and vigorous domestic market add to the investment picture. Taiwan's financial resources will enable it to serve as a funding center for the region, and a solid technological base makes the island ideal for high-tech industries. Extensive economic and trade ties connect Taiwan to East Asia and the world. Finally, the ROC shares cultural and linguistic bonds with other regional economic powers. These advantages make Taiwan an ideal base for local and multi-

national enterprises with plans to do business in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APROC Plan calls for both macroeconomic adjustments and measures aimed specifically at fostering the development of six specialized sub-operations centers. Macroeconomic adjustments are focused on improving the economic infrastructure in Taiwan by allowing for the free flow of the four I's, or investment, industry, individuals, and information. Steps which have been taken in this direction include the amendment of laws in July 1995 to loosen controls on the movement of capital. In addition, certain areas of business which had formerly been closed to foreign investment have been opened, and the scope of intellectual property rights protection has been expanded. Last but not least, actions have been taken to streamline the procedures involved in the employment of foreign nationals.

While macroeconomic adjustments are important, most APROC work is

concentrated on the six sub-operations centers. After a careful evaluation of Taiwan's comparative advantages, the ROC government has identified six areas with the greatest potential for development: manufacturing, sea transportation, air transportation, finance, telecommunications, and the media industry. The APROC Plan aims to develop Taiwan into a regional hub where companies doing business in these areas will establish centers for their Asia-Pacific operations.

To propel the development of the nation into the next century, the ROC must liberalize and internationalize its economy. The APROC Plan is designed to do just this. Macroeconomic adjustments and the promotion of the six sub-operations centers will enable Taiwan to serve as a hub for regional business operations. Not only will this redefine the contours of the ROC's economic horizon, it will contribute to the integration and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century.

Palestine Post

Current closure in violation of humanitarian law

Washington—Human Rights Watch is alarmed at the humanitarian crisis that has emerged following the tightening of the three-year-old general "closure"—the term referring to the sealing of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—and the reimposition of an internal closure on the West Bank. The confinement of most Palestinians to their own communities amounts to a form of town arrest. According to Human Rights Watch, the manner in which Israel has imposed restrictions on the movement of Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip violates its obligations under international law, even when current security exigencies are taken into consideration.

When Human Rights Watch released Israel's Closure of the West Bank and Gaza in July 1996, the new government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed easing the closure, and some progress had been made in the past few months. However, with every new crisis, Israel has automatically tightened the closure on the territories, in a manner that causes indiscriminate harm to the civilian population there, and without making serious efforts to provide relief to offset the harm to the population.

Restrictions on movement imposed in February-March 1996, after four deadly suicide bombings in Israel, had serious and long-lasting repercussions for Palestinian society. Today, that humanitarian crisis is being replayed, but acute shortages in basic medical supplies and the denial of passage to patients and ambulances are reportedly having more serious consequences, in light of the fact that over 1,000 Palestinians sustained injuries during the violent clashes of last week.

The manner in which Israel implements restrictions on movement violates the 1907 Hague Regulations and the 1949 IV Geneva Convention, including the prohibition against collective punishment, and the requirements that an occupying power ensure the welfare of the occupied population, and ensure food and relief supplies and medical care. The "general" closure prohibits the movement of goods and individuals from or into the West Bank or Gaza Strip, as well as movement between the two territories, except to those who hold Israeli-issued permits, while recurrent "total" closures prevent even those who hold valid permits from entering or leaving the West Bank and Gaza.

These restrictions have seriously harmed the population, by preventing health-care personnel from reaching their workplaces or providing emergency services, interfering with the movement of ambulances and severely hampering patient access to both primary and specialized health care. In addition, closures prevent thousands of students from attending schools and universities and interfere with both Christian and Muslim worship. Closures also separate families divided by the borders of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israeli-annexed Jerusalem and Gaza, and prevents lawyers and family members from visiting Palestinians imprisoned or detained inside Israel.

The economic impact of closure is also severe, due to onerous restrictions imposed on the movement of goods, and sharp decreases in the number of Palestinians permitted to work inside Israel. These measures have further impoverished the economies of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, leading to a rise in unemployment and an increase in the number of individuals and families requiring food or cash assistance. Israel has no obligation under international law to create economic prosperity in the West Bank and Gaza or provide jobs inside Israel to Palestinians. However, when its security policies make it difficult or impossible for Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza to meet their basic needs independently, Israel bears responsibility for ensuring that these needs are met.

...And now the Israeli Internet censor

Censorship on the West Bank and Gaza still very much exists. However, it is not from the Palestine Authority but from Israel. The latest casualty is the Internet service on the Occupied Territories. Many websites have been subjected to logging off from the Israelis. But today access seems to have been restored and God only knows when the Israeli's will switch off. Today, the Jerusalem-based Planet remains off-line.

The Israeli censor has accused these websites of spreading what they call political propaganda. But the censorship of material has been a routine and common practice by Israel. It has never hesitated to censor other forms of Palestinian media. Newspapers still have to submit material to the Israeli censor and have material taken out that he simply does not agree with. Would it have been such a big step to do something with Palestinian websters? We do not think so. There is clear discrimination involved against the Palestinian Internet Community.

The coordinator of Planet, which currently needs maintenance in the cable of their frame-relay line from Bezek, the Israeli telecommunications company, was told that it wouldn't be possible as staff could not travel to the area in which his office is based for "security reasons". The office is based in Jerusalem! Fortunately, the cheque for their leased line is due. He notes that they never fail to turn up for that. Planet should be restored to service. Other Palestinian ISPs report that such treatment is common. You can bet that the same disregard is not shown to Israeli ISPs.

Bosnians divided by those who stayed, those who fled

By Tracy Wilkinson
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

SARAJEVO. Bosnia-Herzegovina—Jusuf Hasic is one of Bosnia's intellectuals, an articulate economist with long experience as a lobbyist and writer.

But the white-haired, 62-year-old Sarajevo native is at a loss for words when he tries to explain to his daughter what life was like during the war.

"My own daughter could not understand, not really," he said.

His daughter, Lejla Bratovic, was among the hundreds of thousands of people who fled Bosnia-Herzegovina at the start of the vicious 43-month war that saw death, unimaginable atrocity and a crippling siege of this capital. Roughly a third of Bosnia's prewar population is estimated to have fled.

Now, Bratovic, with her husband and young daughter, is among the uncounted thousands who have returned since a US-brokered agreement stopped the fighting last December and compelled national elections last month.

As the exodus is gradually reversed and Bosnians come home to Sarajevo, a significant emotional, psychological and material barrier is beginning to divide those who remained to endure the mayhem from those who by luck or connections got out.

It separates families and best friends, sometimes in subtle ways—in resentments or in stories that can never be shared. Those who stuck it out watch bitterly as better-skilled, wealthier, less traumatized people return and, in some cases, displace them from their jobs.

And returnees are dismayed to find that their homes have been turned over to government soldiers or ruling Muslim militants: they are further dismayed to encounter a once-cosmopolitan capital now physically devastated and dominated by rural peasants.

Hasic confronted this gulf with his daughter, who left for Italy in 1992 and returned a few months ago.

He tried to tell her about walking nearly three miles most days to haul water from the nearest pump, and climbing 108 steps in his apartment building—54 down, 54 up—with heavy, full containers in each hand. No electricity meant no elevator.

And he tried to explain what it was like not to be able to leave the house for days on end because of artillery shelling that plucked victims from the sidewalks and market stalls. Or what it was like not to eat a fresh vegetable for months.

Those who are coming back did not experience the tragedy of war, he said. "They are always talking about how difficult it was to live as a refugee in Italy, or the United States or Austria. But we were living here... like prisoners, worse than prisoners. Nobody can understand that."

Don't get Hasic wrong. He is delighted that his daughter and granddaughter are back. A second daughter who also fled has not returned and does not plan to.

"I don't even try to explain now," he said with a shrug.

Lejla suffered a different indignity, that of being a homeless refugee, rootless, an outcast. She and other returnees tell stories of the humiliation they felt at being branded savages, at being asked by prospective landlords if they knew how to use toilets or appliances; at being refused work and forced to live on charity even amid the prosperity of peaceful West European capitals.

Lejla, 33, said she nevertheless felt she had to leave Sarajevo for the sake of her child, eight-year-old Amina, who now speaks as much Italian as Bosnian.

"Despite the fact I was far away and had a very different life, I was in a war too, in my own way," she said. "Those who stayed will say it was worse here, and I won't dispute that. But every shell exploded inside me. Thousands of times I wished I was here and not there. But then I would look at my child and thank God that I wasn't."

The guilt at having abandoned her parents, the dilemma of wondering whether it was safe to return—these conflicts haunted her in Italy. She was in the last year of medical school when she left Sarajevo, but she could get work, eventually, only in a wood-products factory. Her husband, Emir, never found work at all. They lived on her wages, savings and humanitarian aid.

As soon as the "minimum conditions" existed—the peace treaty was signed, the shelling had stopped—they came back.

Her father has told her a few stories of funerals, mostly. Tears welled in her eyes when she remembered walking past a vast new Sarajevo cemetery the first time. But her father does not talk much about his ordeal, she said. Those who suffered the most don't say much.

"Everyone is avoiding talking about the war period, and I don't want to ask either," she said.

If Lejla had a hard time of it, Emir, who is rejoining his father's optometry business, seems none the worse for having left. With an earring and a new haircut, he bounced into a sidewalk cafe where his wife was being interviewed and joined the conversation.

"Oh, I have such a terrible refugee story to tell you," he said to a reporter in sunglasses. Without missing a beat, he added: "Those are great Yves St. Laurents."

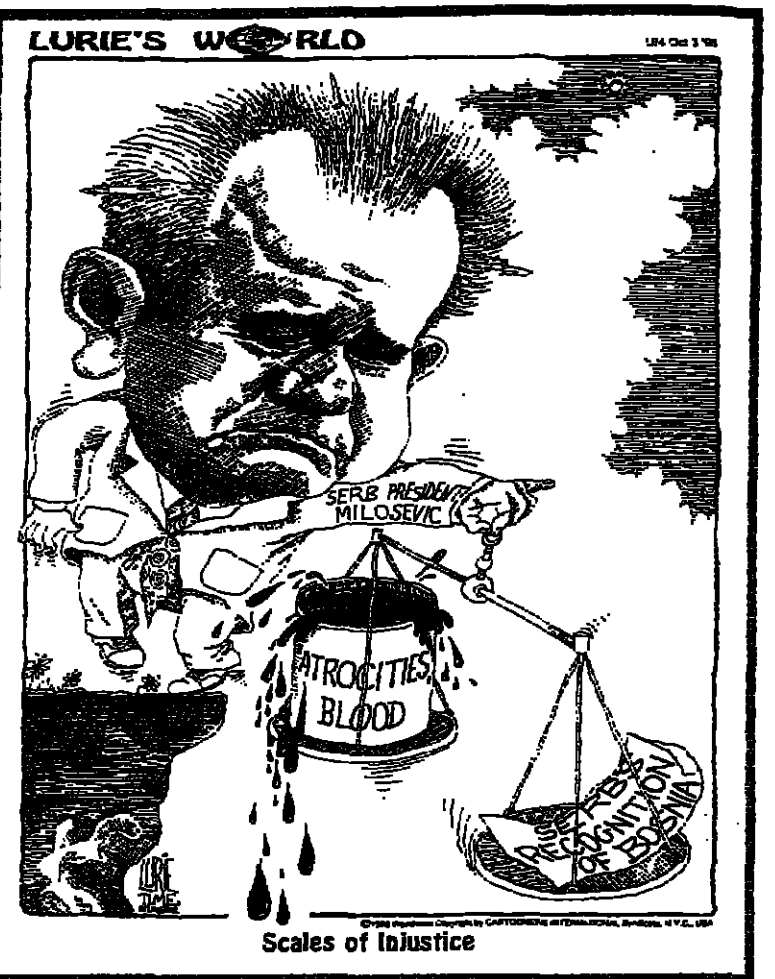
Emir exudes a cockiness that drives Sarajevans who stayed here crazy. It is seen in some returnees whose privilege and connections spared them the war's horrors by giving them a comfortable life abroad and then easing their re-entry, and it breeds resentment and jealousy.

"A lot of my friends are coming back now," said Tanja Susnjari, an unemployed banker who remained in Sarajevo throughout the war. "I hear them complain about how bad the city looks, about how terrible it is. ... Do they think we wanted it that way? Like this is our fault?"

Bosnians are further split in a bizarre competition over who suffered the most.

You can never truly comprehend what it is like to live under siege, say those who stayed, to hide from the bombings and see your friends die before your eyes. But say those who left, you cannot fully comprehend what it is like to exist as a refugee, unwanted and always a stranger.

For many of the Bosnians who remained, postwar adjustment is complicated now by a



kind of malaise, psychologists say. They have lost the focus that raw survival gave them during the war, yet peace has not delivered the instant employment and renewal they expected. They wonder what they were fighting and dying for.

And suddenly, lost neighbors and relatives reappear.

Bosnians slowly started to return after the peace accord was signed last 14 December. First they waited out the winter snows; then they arrived on

exploratory missions to test whether the peace was for real. By the summer, thousands were returning, especially families who wanted to be in place for the opening of the school year last month.

Many others chose to wait for the outcome of Sept. 14 elections that, in the end, reinstated the same nationalist political parties that led Bosnia to war. Uncertainty still clouds the future, and there is no guarantee.

New Afghan rulers have rural roots

But for all the worldly pretense of Mohammed Omar and the role his followers played in a conflict of superpowers, the militiamen who have captured Kabul and control most of Afghanistan are mostly provincial peasants with little exposure beyond the battlefield and the mosque.

By Kenneth J. Cooper
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

KABUL, Afghanistan—The leader of the conquering Taliban militia is a reclusive, one-eyed cleric who has declared himself King of the Faithful, an Islamic title of great reverence that few Muslims in the world claim.

Many of the group's rank and file are veteran mujaheddin, or Islamic warriors, who with US financial support chased the Soviet army from Afghanistan in the closing military engagement of the Cold War.

But for all the worldly pretense of Mohammed Omar and the role his followers played in a conflict of super-

powers, the militiamen who have captured Kabul and control most of Afghanistan are mostly provincial peasants with little exposure beyond the battlefield and the mosque. They appear to be isolated even from most other Islamic fundamentalist movements.

"These guys, in the American sense, are fire-and-brimstone, backwoods preachers," said Barnett Rubin, an Afghanistan specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. "But they are fire-and-brimstone preachers with an AK-47."

Transported in small pickup trucks and armed with automatic rifles left over from the war against the Soviets, the militia took this capital in a nighttime attack that was better planned and coordinated than their unsuccessful attempt last year. Government troops, their loyalty divided

between the former president and the prime minister, fled after offering only token resistance.

The apparent ease of the Taliban's military victory has baffled many observers here and raised questions about the role of Pakistan, which has denied providing support but according to the State Department has at least supplied the militia with fuel.

Just two years after they emerged from Islamic schools for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, members of the Taliban control about 75 percent of one of the world's poorest countries. Taliban leaders have vowed to capture the last remaining territory outside their grasp—several northern provinces occupied by the forces of an ethnic warlord and the deposed government—but mountainous terrain gives an advantage to the defenders.

Few Taliban leaders have had any preparation to govern a country in serious need of international assistance after ethnic militias have spent 18 years fighting the Soviets and then each other.

The new government established here by the Taliban, like the militia itself, has a loose structure. Omar has remained at the movement's headquar-

ters in a southern provincial capital while a deputy has overseen a six-member governing council in the capital. At times, officials have made contradictory statements about the government's military plans and religious edicts.

The one clear goal of the Taliban government—rule guided by an interpretation of Islamic law so stringent that the government of Iran denounced it as medieval—could cause other countries to withhold formal recognition and reconstruction aid.

International critics have condemned moves to exclude girls from schools and women from work outside the home as human rights violations, not religious practices to be tolerated and respected. Some Taliban officials have said the restrictions are temporary until segregation of the sexes can be assured and zealous militiamen are sent to barracks outside the capital.

"We will try our best so that all rules and regulations of Islam are implemented on the ground," said Mohammed Stanakzai, the Taliban's acting deputy foreign minister. "But so far as we are able, we want to establish an Islamic government which will not be opposed to the modern world."

Members of the Taliban describe themselves not only as defenders of Islam but as saviors of Afghanistan, taking up arms solely to disarm factions that had been fighting for control of Kabul after the country's Soviet-installed ruler, Najibullah, was deposed four years ago. Taliban soldiers killed Najibullah, who had been living in the United Nations compound in Kabul, in one of their first acts after capturing the capital.

"After Najibullah, most Afghans hoped for peace and security. But unfortunately these former commanders started fighting, leading to the destruction of our agricultural system, the looting of our riches and our national resources... the collapse of our public administration and endangering the lives of all our people," said Stanakzai. As a graduate of Afghanistan's military academy, he is one of the few Taliban leaders to be educated in other than Islamic schools.

The Taliban have said they want friendly relations with the United States. The State Department has said it plans to send a diplomatic delegation soon and explore the possibility of reopening the embassy closed in 1989.

Coca-Cola at home and abroad

IN 1886, Coca-Cola was a soda fountain drink that sold for five cents, today it is a company with a total market capitalization of \$126 billion. After 108 years, Coca-Cola is now served 705 million times each day in more than 195 countries around the world and while it is still climbing the ladder in Jordan, is the leading soft drink in countries as diverse as China and Chile, attracting consumers of virtually every culture and age.

Coca-Cola's birthplace was in Atlanta, Georgia where Dr. Syth Pemberton, a pharmacist, produced the syrup for the famous drink in a brass pot. It was sampled at the local pharmacy, pronounced "excellent" and put on sale. Whether by accident or design, carbonated water was added to the new syrup to create the "Delicious and Refreshing" drink that we know today.

Simultaneously, Dr. Pemberton's bookkeeper, Frank M. Robinson suggested that the new product be named Coca-Cola, because the "two C's" would look well in advertising and penned the name in a unique adaptation of Spencerian script. Today, those "two C's" are the world's best known trademark.

By 1888, Pemberton had sold all his rights to Coca-Cola to an astute business-

man named Asa Candler. Together with his brother, John Candler and Frank M. Robinson, Candler formed The Coca-Cola Company in 1892. By 1895 there were syrup manufacturing companies in Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago and Los Angeles, while that same year Candler was able to say that "Coca-Cola is now drunk in every state and territory in the United States."

With the great success of Coca-Cola, the idea was formed by a certain Joseph A. Biedenhorn of Vicksburg, Mississippi to begin bottling the drink in 1894. He installed bottling machinery at the back of his store and has gone down in history as the first bottler of Coca-Cola. Bottling for the entire United States soon followed in 1899 with the first bottling plant opening in Chattanooga, Tennessee and the second in Atlanta. Within 20 years the number of bottling plants grew from two to a thousand, 95 percent of which were locally owned and operated. In 1915, American designers Alexander Samuelson and Earl R. Dean created a unique bottle "that a person would recognize as a Coca-Cola bottle even if broken, a person could tell at a glance what it was." After various refinements the bottle was finalized to become

the distinctive contour shape and "Georgia Green" color that is today universally recognizable.

By the outbreak of World War II, Coca-Cola was being bottled in 44 countries, and was well on its way to being a global phenomena. The war did nothing to impede Coca-Cola's progress, especially when the then President of the Company, Robert Woodruff, wanted to see that every man in uniform gets a bottle of Coca-Cola for five cents (the original 1886 price), wherever he is and whatever it costs the Company. In fact, Coca-Cola was so important that General Dwight Eisenhower asked that 10 bottling plants be built in Europe to ensure that the army would not run out of the beloved soft drink. By the end of the war 64 plants had been built in the request of the army, giving Coca-Cola a firm foothold in regions where it had not been previously known. Needless to say, this spread the popularity of the drink among the local populations giving Coca-Cola an unprecedented chance for worldwide growth. In this way, Coca-Cola emerged as a symbol of both friendship and refreshment.

After the war, The Coca-Cola Company adapted itself to a changing world. Packag-

ing and product sizes had to be changed to cater to a new consumer conscious society. By 1960 the now familiar metal cans were widely available and in 1977 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) plastic bottles hit the market. The Company also felt that there should be a wider range of products for the consumer to choose from and in the 1960's the Fanta family of flavored soft drinks, Sprite and Diet (light) drinks were all introduced.

Coca-Cola has always been one of life's simple pleasures, and this has been emphasized in the advertising campaigns that have been carried out over the years. The most enduring and popular slogans have been used and reused since the 1940's, who wouldn't recognize the 1942 slogan "It's The Real Thing" today? Though the mediums have changed, the message of Coca-Cola has always been the same: that it's an easily available, refreshing drink that is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.

In Jordan Coca-Cola is also instantly recognizable, with the familiar red signs immediately signalling the availability of cold and delicious refreshment. Coca-Cola in Jordan has always been environment conscious with great emphasis being

placed on returnable bottles (which constitute 94 percent of the market in Jordan). There are also two water treatment plants and two CO2 plants which have proven Coca-Cola's commitment to preserving the environment to many Jordanians.

Though the original Coca-Cola is still the most popular of Coca-Cola products in Jordan, there have been a variety of newer ones that have hit the market recently, such as Fanta Apple & Strawberry and Krest Tonic & Soda that were introduced last August.



Today, The Coca-Cola Company sells nearly half of all the soft drinks consumed around the world. It's global strategy has always been clear-cut and simple, to reach as many people as possible for as low a price as possible. The enduring popularity of the Company was proven in 1982 with the launching of the new diet Coke, which in two years became the most successful low-calorie soft drink in the world and became the most successful new soft drink since Coca-Cola itself. The result as they say is history.

Who

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larity of the Company... 1982 with the... Coke, which in... e most successful... in the world and... successful new soft... itself. The result as...

Taiwan Representative in Amman 'Our information industry ranks third in the world'

Editor's Note: Taiwan has long had relations with Jordan and the area. For a tiny country, it has an impressive economy. The Star talked to the Representative of its Commercial Office in Amman, Mr Edmund Liu. Excerpts follow:

How would you characterize the development of Jordan-Taiwan relations?

The Jordanians and the Chinese living in Taiwan, are all peace loving peoples. So, we always cooperate in the fields of how to improve the welfare of the people. For example, during the Gulf War, my Government donated twenty million US dollars to ease the burden of the Jordanian Government in handling the refugees situation. Also our scientific, industrial and cultural cooperation has been going on for quite a few years. This

kind of cooperation aims at a better and sound economy and more employments.

Jordan at present is seeking to attract foreign investors into the country. What is the likely possibility of investments from your part of the world?

After the signing of the peace accord two years ago, more and more of our tourists are coming to Jordan, for sight-seeing and at the same time some of them make on-the-spot surveys aimed at investment opportunities. There are already a few textiles factories established in Jordan. While some of our computer companies are planning to make Jordan the center of their products to be marketed in this region.

The Cairo economic summit will take place in November. What is the likely possi-

bility of your country attending?

I don't think that we are going to. It does not mean that we are reluctant to participate. There are lots of implications.

Can you tell me something about Taiwan's economic development. How do you see the future?

Our economic development started from improving farm products, and then light industry. We are now concentrating on high-tech and heavy industries. Our information industry ranks third in the world. I would say that the

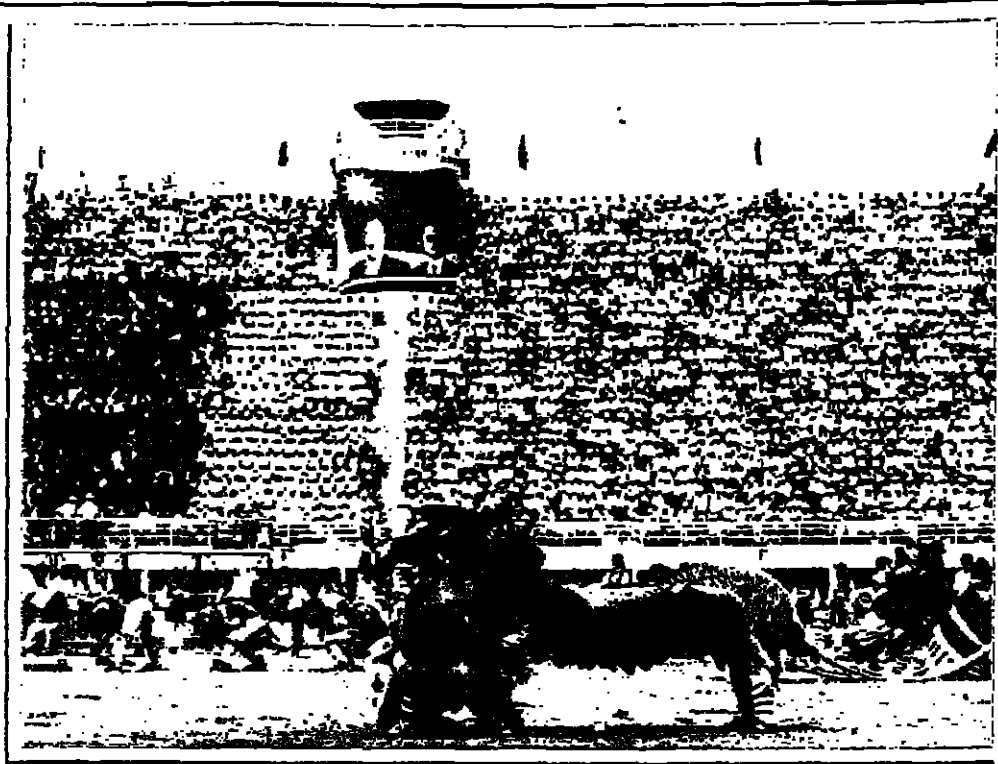


Mr Liu

maChinese people living in Taiwan are very proud of their accomplishments in economy and democracy, achieved in the past five decades and are highly confident, more than ever before, looking into the next century.

A group from Taiwan came to the Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture last July. How do you see the role of culture in the world?

This was a very good start of cultural exchange. We hope that through this kind of exchange, people will learn more about other countries and understand better of their cultures. I sincerely hope that we will have more such exchange in the future, because I believe that through cultural exchange, the world will definitely be more harmonious and peaceful.



Shipping Technology and cooperation in Aqaba

By Ibrahim Al Naouri

THE ASPECTS of Jordan becoming a transit area for the entire region are vast especially after the Peace Treaty with Israel.

After the MENA '95 Summit that was held in Amman, Jordan witnessed a substantial increase in investment and especially after the relaxation of the local Investment Law.

Modern technology and management cooperation have reflected positively on the development of traffic in the Aqaba port, thus permitting more mega-carriers to consider calling at Aqaba as a trans-shipment port for neighboring countries.

Furthermore, the modern management of the Customs Dept., in Jordan has started to adopt new systems to facilitate the old routine procedures—a major reason for delaying and even impeding the international investment in Jordan.

As a board member of the Jordanian Shipping Association, I strongly emphasize on the necessity to facilitate export costs through cutting down on port dues, trans-shipment and handling charges so as to entice more cargo to

move via the Aqaba port.

In what concerns the issue of Feeder Service Activities, Jeddah is considered as the major trans-shipment port to Jordan being the most convenient for trans-shipment cargo. Then comes Fujairah, Dammam and Port Said. Most of Jordan's containerized cargo is being moved via trans-shipment ports.

Between Aqaba and Jeddah there are two feeder vessels operating on a weekly basis, namely MCI and RSP (Red Sea Freeder), both are running successfully.

Intermodal are running a dedicated feeder vessel from Port Said to Aqaba while CMA shuttle services operate between Dammam and Aqaba. Also, there is the APL feeder vessel running between Aqaba and Fujairah.

In addition, there are a few lines still calling at Aqaba directly such as IPEX, PIL, Sudan Shipping Line and Rickmers Line.

Being the Chairman of the Amman Group of Companies, I am glad to say that currently our Group is considered as one of the leading companies in Jordan in the fields of transport.



Al Naouri

As sole agents of EVERGREEN LINE and EVA Air in Jordan, we have successfully managed to spread and canvas the area with its services. We are also counted among the leading forwarding companies enjoying a region-wide reputation in what concerns both sea and air freight. Thanks to our highly qualified staff and to the up-to-date digital network we employ.

Finally, it is my personal opinion that the best way to make the region's potential more conspicuous is by setting higher standards for ourselves first, and by aiming at the long-term profit to be gained once this is realized.

Democratic reform: Taiwan's road to pluralism

DEMOCRATIC REFORM in Taiwan has certainly not been entirely smooth. Inevitably, misunderstandings and obstacles hinder such a process. The current challenge for Taiwan is to maintain the momentum of democratic development while avoiding pitfalls and actions that create more problems than they solve.

Democratic reform began to accelerate years ago under former President Chiang Ching-kuo's direction. Because his priorities embodied the Taiwan's national spirit and conformed to the basic interests of its people, the drive for democracy won popular support that has continued to this day. This progress has come from following the democratic ideals of the Taiwan's founding father, Dr Sun Yat-sen, who on October 10th, 1911, led a revolution to topple the despotic Manchu

dynasty.

Many dark years, though, intervened between the introduction of Dr Sun Yat-sen's ideals and their realization today. After Dr. Sun's death in 1925, China was torn apart by rivalry among local warlords. Then, just as China was at her weakest, Japan invaded, and another eight years were lost.

From the late-1940s to the mid-1980s, the government ran on a wartime footing in Taiwan. The gradual reduction in international tensions in the mid-1980s convinced President Chiang Ching-kuo that the time had come to replace the Cold War mentality with full-fledged democracy and thus bring Dr Sun's vision to fruition.

The government revoked the Emergency Decree (1948) and lifted ban on the establishment of new newspapers (1988) and new political parties (1989). It

also allowed Taiwan residents to visit relatives in China for the first time in nearly four decades (1987). Two days before President Chiang Ching-kuo passed away on January 13, 1988, the legislature passed a law guaranteeing the people's freedom of assembly and association.

After taking office in 1988, President Lee Teng-hui announced that he was committed to following through with the reforms initiated by his predecessor. Over the last eight years, President Lee has overseen several major political transformations. Democratic elections have been held for representative bodies and executive leaders at all levels of government.

While elections for local offices have been held periodically in Taiwan since 1949, none of the representatives to al

parliamentary bodies had to stand for re-election during the Cold War. President Lee Teng-hui recognized that it was essential to renew these elected bodies, for without vigorous debate carried on within parliamentary organs that were truly representative. Beginning with the election of the Second National Assembly in 1991, all representative bodies and executive leaders at all levels of government, including the national parliament, the Taiwan Provincial Assembly, and the provincial governor.

In recent years, a competitive multi party system over 70 political parties have registered with the Ministry of the Interior.

With the first direct popular election of the National assembly and Legislative Yuan in 1991 and 1992, respectively, the era of single-party rule gan

to wind down, as opposition representatives gained a significant presence in both parliamentary bodies.

The climax to the democratic coming-of-age was the first-ever popular election of the Taiwan president, which took place on March 23, 1996. In a hotly contested four-way race, incumbent president Lee Teng-hui and Premier Lien Chan, both of the KMT, came away the winners, garnering a healthy 54 percent of the vote. By awarding the KMT a majority of the vote, the citizens of Taiwan demonstrated their confidence in the ability of the party to renew itself and lead the nation into an era of pluralism. And by awarding non-KMT candidates the remaining 45 percent, voters confirmed that healthy democratic and multi party politics is here to stay.

Immunology discovery makes two Nobel Laureates

The scientists' work paved the way for others to reveal that once infected cells are spotted, they are killed by the immune system, even though they are part of the body of the person suffering the infection.

By Boyce Rensberger
LA Times Washington Post
News Service

A 23-year-old discovery about how the immune system detects virus-infected cells within the body has earned the Nobel Prize "in medicine or physiology" for two immunologists who made the findings while working together at the Australian National University in Canberra. The Swedish Nobel Assembly announced the shared award.

The scientists' work paved the way for others to reveal that once infected cells are spotted, they are killed by the immune system, even though they are part of the body of the person suffering the infection.

The discovery also helped explain why immune systems attack organs transplanted from other individuals and why the same immune cells sometimes go awry and destroy normal tissues within the body, leading to so-called autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, arthritis and some forms of diabetes.

The winners are Peter C. Doherty, an Australian who is now a professor at the University of Tennessee and at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, and Rolf M. Zinkernagel, a Swiss now heading the Institute of Experimental Immunology at the University of Zurich. The two will split \$1.12 million in prize money.

Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, hailed the 1973 discovery as "certainly worthy of a Nobel. This was

nizing one of the most important things the immune system does."

Fauci said research by Zinkernagel and Doherty revealed a key mechanism by which special killer cells of the immune system hold their lethal powers in check, unleashing them only on cells that display specific chemical markers that reveal they have been hijacked by a virus.

Doherty and Zinkernagel were studying one of the two major infection-fighting processes that the immune system can deploy.

One involves so-called B cells, which are white blood cells that manufacture antibodies. Antibodies are molecules shaped to bind to foreign proteins such as those that occur naturally on the surfaces of bacteria. When antibodies bind, they may disable the bacterium directly; in any case, they mark it for consumption by other cells of the immune system that eat bacteria the way an amoeba engulfs its food.

This part of the immune system was fairly well known when Doherty and Zinkernagel began their work in the early 1970s. It also was known that there is a second component to the immune response, one that does not use antibodies.

Called the cell-mediated immune system, it exists primarily to deal with viruses, which are more insidious than bacteria because these microbes invade cells, where they can hide from the antibody-making cells. Once inside a cell of an infected animal, the virus hijacks its metabolic machinery to make new viruses, which spread the infectio

on people.

In the 1970s it was also known that the cell-mediated immune response could kill organs transplanted from one person to another, attacking its cells as if they harbored viruses and causing the organ to be "rejected." Tissues transplanted within the same body, however, were not rejected.

Moreover, it was known that the immune system detected the foreign tissue because its cells carried a "self" marker protein that differed from the "self" marker of the patient. Each person's cells carry unique proteins that act as identity cards, telling the immune system that they are loyal residents of the body. The only exceptions are genetically identical twins.

Surely, scientists realized at the time, marker proteins did not evolve to frustrate organ transplantation. Their primary role is what Zinkernagel and Doherty discovered.

Because viruses lurk inside cells, where antibodies cannot reach them, the only way they can be eliminated is by killing the infected cell. To do this, the

immune system uses another kind of white blood cell, sometimes called a killer T cell. These cells can kill others of their own body and would do so indiscriminately if it were not for a restriction on their powers imposed by the "self" marker. If a cell is carrying the correct marker, the homicidal T cells of its own body will ignore it.

The new Nobel laureates discovered that killer T cells act only when they encounter a cell that carries an authentic self marker linked to a foreign protein. The foreign protein exists because the infected cell, under the command of the virus's genes, is making new viruses, which have protein coats. In the process, some of the proteins intended for the coat are linked to markers and displayed in the cell's outer membrane.

When the killer T cell spots the combination of self marker plus foreign protein, it attacks with a simple murder weapon—another kind of protein that punches through the membrane of the infected cell and holds open a large hole. The infected cell leaks to death, taking the virus with it.

On the Occasion of the National Day of TAIWAN

The management and staff of Ammom Shipping & Transport Agent of the two Leading Taiwanese Giants

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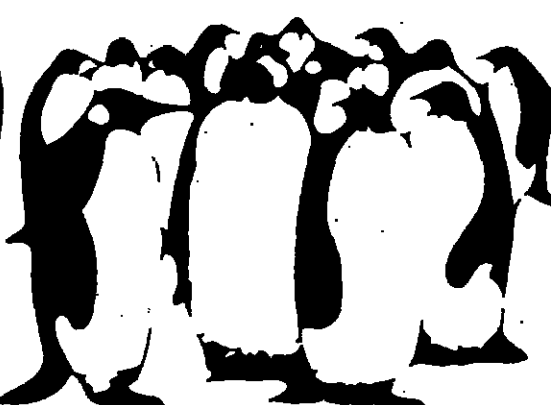
Kan Zaman Village hosts exhibition of artist Mohammad Bushnaq

UNDER THE patronage of HRH Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, the Jordan Tourism Investment Company and ArizZaman are organising an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by the renowned artist Mohammad Bushnaq that will be held at the Al Baydur hall of Kan Zaman village on Thursday, 11 October, 1996 at 6 pm.

Mr Bushnaq was born in Haifa in 1974. After he finished High School, he received a scholarship to study in the United Kingdom where he obtained a degree in Fine Arts. Bushnaq has participated in various group exhibitions in Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Germany, while this event at the historic village of Kan Zaman will be the seventh of his solo exhibitions.

The exhibition will display 51 original pieces of sculpture, that have been made using iron, wood and stone, as well as 90 oil painting in oil, acrylic and watercolours and will be on display daily between 8:00 am to 11:00 pm until October 18th, 1996.

AROUND TOWN

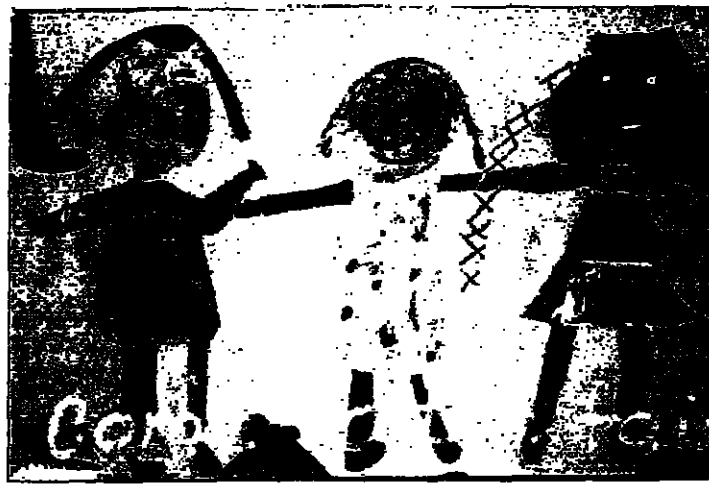


Food fair at the ICS

Tomorrow, Friday, the International Community School's biggest fund raising activity will open at 11 am for what will be a great day for all the family.

The fair will start with the National Costume parade and the Jordanian Army Band who will play for the children. Different kinds of food from Swedish specialties, Jordanian delicacies, Irish coffee and Italian Pasta will be displayed.

Children will be busy riding ponies, throwing wet sponges at teachers etc.



A new dimension in art

By Anca de Maio
Special to The Star

After an absence of almost two decades, the sequence of "one-dimension" exhibitions moved from Baghdad to Amman and became an important Iraqi-Jordanian cultural manifestation.

The concept of "one-dimension" came to characterize Arabic and Islamic art during the last 25 years. Parallel to the world's latest artistic trends, the Iraqi "one-dimension" school is a post-abstract experimental movement that aims to conquer new cognitive and aesthetic positions in art.

Having assimilated the achievements of Jhawad Selim's "New Baghdad Art" group (started in 1951), the mentor of the movement, Mr Shakhf Hassan Al Said is the one who, since the early '70s, has been promoting the elements of Arabic calligraphy. He has gone beyond the surface of two-dimensional paintings in search of the undefinable secret of "one-dimension" art.

Hosted by Abu'ad Art Gallery, the fifth "one-dimension" exhibition brings together 36 paintings by two Jordanian and seven Iraqi artists. The works are theoretically coherent and technically original.

All the paintings show their creators' interest in "letterism"—the artistic employment of letter as a horizontal geometric line—and "depth" as the vector that pierces the surface and reaches a non-spatial dimension that reminds of "God's time" and algebraic truths. The artists turn to good account the spiritual values of the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia, that seemed to be initiated in Sumerian and Assyrian numerology.

Each artist participates with four paintings. Mr Al Said underlined that one-dimension art makes "everybody on equal footing and free to show his own visions and experiments."

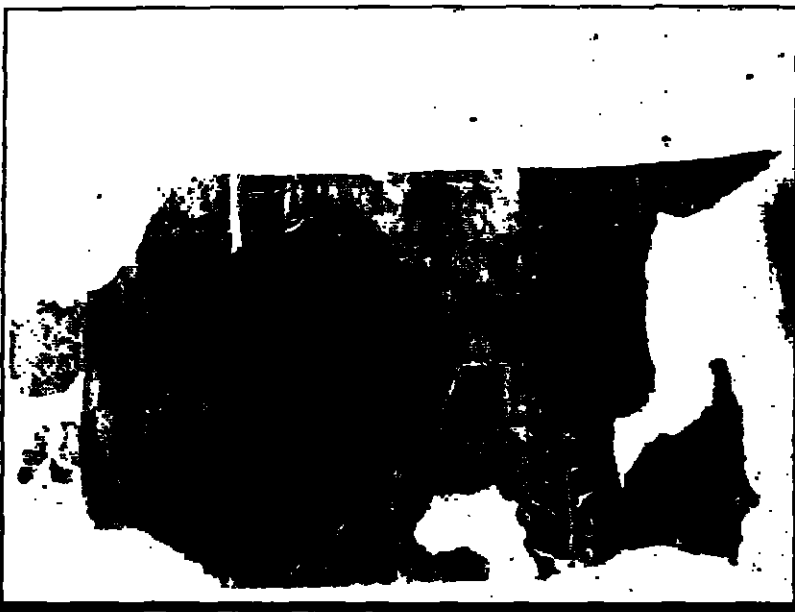
The paintings of Al Said, Hana Malallah, Abdel Malek Ashour and Saba Shakhir have a common denominator and express a well defined group-philosophy. Technically, they

experiment with unconventional material such as light (as seen through the cracks and holes made on two-sided paper), conceptual colors (writing names in Arabic or Latin characters painted in contrasting colors) and time. This is a simulation of temporal movement and change by fragmenting or dissolving the object of art.

The paper, cartoon and wood surfaces are pierced systematically. The hole is normally placed in the middle like in Sumerian reliefs or in ancient magic squares. If the incision is not real, black dots and squares marked on "monochrome, realistic and 'cheap' colored" surfaces create the illusion of transversal depth. "Pointilism" and repetition are technical sources of esoteric suggestion, while broken surfaces indicate arbitrariness. The black hole motif is recurrent in almost all the paintings as an expression of the artists' fascination for cosmology.

Princess Wijdan Alif's paintings are "one-dimensional" in the sense that they give the impression of cosmic profundity. Elect colors like bright, yellow and emerald green contrast with elegant dark lines in a harmonious astral movement.

Al Said confesses that certain light holes in



his paintings stand for real constellations. The Arabic equivalent of the letter "O" represents the center of the spiral illustrating the movement and "becoming" of the universe. The cosmic black holes are simultaneously defined as negation and assertion. Hamid Yassin too is attracted by this duality and scribbles "yes" and "no" on the same painted surface. His artistic approach is essentially semiotic; alphabetical and geometrical signs give meaning to the repetitive "musical" structure of the paintings.

The young artist Ashour explores the macrocosm and writes the story of cosmogony on his cartoon collages. "Realistic" colors like ochre, orange, brown, yellow and beige acquire matter density. Thus the movement in his paintings is almost physical and "the one dimension" conquered.

On the contrary, Shakhir investigates the depths of the microcosm. Actually, macro- and micro-cosm are equivalent, simply because height and depth are synonymous. She is interested in time's participation in surface transgression. The hole in the wood support is suggestive of decaying temporal movement.

Dealing with surface in original terms is what Malallah does when she prints calligraphic motifs on her repetitive dots collages in a style resembling the decorations of Alwarka temple in the Baghdad museum.

Khaled Khreis displays a set of four paintings in which unreadable calligraphy written on a surface of infinite invisible particles creates a strong sensitive impression of remoteness. The black trace of a swift touch of brush seems to have wiped out something impossible to recover. This one-dimension "something" lies behind the artist as well as the spectators are aware of his hidden presence.

Mahmoud Qobaidi transforms calligraphic lines into ample Picasso-like black shapes and fills the winding loops with vivid colors against a white background.

Ghassan Gha'ib practices an anti-geometrical approach. The internal movement of this kind of paintings is not the result of Arabesque rhythmic structure as with the above-mentioned artists.

In his case the subtle dynamics of such imperfections as black or red brush traces, cracks and stains, confer veracity to a transparent universe of beige, light blue and light violet shades.

The fifth one-dimension exhibition represents a remarkable event in Amman's cultural life. Iraqi and Jordanian painters concern their talent and artistic needs in a one-dimension symphony under the impressive direction of Mr Al Said.

On 7 October the Jordan Plastic Art Association opened a documentary exhibition about the history of one-dimension art from its very beginnings till today. A debate on the concept of one-dimensional art took place last Saturday, 5 October. ■

Um El Kundum (La Yazal)
Charm of 19th century Jordan

AMMAN (Star)—A majestic place that reflects the architectural originality of Jordan in the 19th century is an old house called Um El Kundum (La Yazal). Nowadays, exhibitions and music concerts take place at the house where audiences can appreciate both the old and modern aspects of art.

Um El Kundum was built during the middle of the 19th century. It is the farmhouse of the Bisharat family from which

they administer a large area of cultivated land. Situated on a lofty site, the mansion overlooks the surrounding plains of wheat that were once a breadbasket of the country. The name Um El Kundum is derived from the old Aramaic word meaning wheat.



The construction work underwent three stages. The first part was built around 1860, the second in 1880 and the third was built early in the 20th century. The first floor, the oldest section of the house, is divided into three main sections. In the past, only the small section was used for living quarters, whereas the remainder of the space was reserved for storage. Now, the entire house is residential, and a small section has been made into a private chapel.

Chamber music concerts have been given in the chapel. A weekly exhibition of old lithographs is currently taking place. This Friday, the theme of the exhibition is Jerusalem and includes old photographs, postcards and lithographs of the holy city.

Several rooms in the

mansion have vaulted ceilings. The room situated in the southeast corner of the first floor is a beautiful example, if not the most beautiful existing example, of traditional 19th century architecture in Jordan.

Ownership of the house was legally officiated in 1968 in the names of five heirs of the third generation of Bisharat. In 1969 it was bought by Mr Mamdouh Bisharat from the rest of the heirs. Um El Kundum remains one of the oldest inhabited houses in the country. Not only is it a rare example of sophisticated traditional architecture, it is also one of the most properly restored and maintained structures of its period in Jordan. It would not have survived without the efforts of Bisharat to restore and preserve it.

Um El Kundum is very pleasant in the summer. A continuous western breeze activates a playful draft throughout the heart of the house, a sibilant wisp of sound and fragrance coming from fields of dry wheat. On the hottest day one feels comfortable in this house, for the thick walls prevent the entry of the day's heat. Here the senses are fully content: one feels an inner peace called forth by the architectural harmony of the surroundings.

Um El Kundum is located on the way to the Arabian Horse Club—right off the airport highway, first left at top of the hill. ■

International Bazaar
in favor of orphanage

THIS YEAR'S Diplomatic Corps' Charity Bazaar—the most prestigious of all in Amman for the last 35 years—took place in the Sports City last week under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma.

Continuing the mission of the late Queen Zeha Al Sharaf's mission to help the children of Mabarrat Um Al Hussein orphanage, Princess Basma expressed in a brief opening speech "her deepest thanks and gratitude" to the 46 participating diplomatic missions and international organizations in Jordan for their "support and goodwill" as well as to all those that brought their contribution to this important social event of which is of "long-standing tradition."

Much more than last year, the event drew the attention of an impressive number of people. "Maybe the choice for a Thursday instead of a Friday," said Mrs Maria Pedotti, the wife of the Swiss Ambassador, "encouraged more visitors and customers to come."

"It is really crowded this year and we are happy to have such a busy day," Mrs Iglesias, the wife of Chile's Ambassador declared. "It is the opportunity to do one's shopping around the world in one hour at reasonable prices that is so special and attractive with this bazaar," stressed Mrs Mireille Abujaber, the coordinator of every year's Diplomatic Corps Bazaar.

All stands competed in variety and elegance. The products ranged from traditional decorative objects (ceramics, souvenirs, jewels, silver trays, embroidered cushions, candles and Christmas decorations) to utilitarian goods such as baby and children wear, bags, towels, handkerchiefs, watches, table clothes, napkins, pens, books, toys, chocolate and cookies. The Pakistani stand comes to mind with its authentic ancient embroidered cushions, the Japanese corner impressed the customers with its porcelain plates and bowls, the beautifully coloured Czech tiny wood objects appealed to children's and mothers' eyes, the Bosnian-Herzegovinian stand was unique for its homemade cookies. Tunisian and Iraqi ceramics were at their best, while the Mabarrat Al Hussein stand was remarkable for its original ornamental candles, bread baskets, embroidered table cloths and cushions. Outside, food from different parts of the world was served to those interested in such exotic flavours as Indian, Malaysian or Australian.

The diplomatic missions that for one reason or another could not be present at the bazaar, declared Mrs Abujaber, "made their contribution to the benefit of the orphanage by various direct donations."

The stand of the Mabarrat Orphanage also displayed wood hangers, boxes, small chairs and other woodwork items made by the children themselves in their vocational carpentry workshops. Their own participation reminded everybody that this bazaar was not a formal society event but an expression of love and care for less fortunate children. The proceeds obtained represent a financial aid that is meant to help forward the Mabarrat Committee's future projects that include providing new equipment to the vocational center, to the sewing section and the computer and science laboratories as well as the extension of the present building.

"It was a joy to work with the distinguished ladies of both diplomatic representations and Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Committee," said Mrs Abujaber, "and a real satisfaction to witness the great success our bazaar witnessed this year." ■

AM



Nobel Prize awarded to Pole

AMMAN (Star)—This year's Nobel Prize for literature went to the Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska. She is the ninth woman ever to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

In Szymborska's poetry man is ostensibly a mere statistical number, still he makes a whole "universe" on whose decisions the future of the world depends. The moralizing tone of her poetry is associated with an unmistakable sense of humor and sensual biologist. Her style is away from didacticism. She does not instruct the reader.

Some of her poems are very feminine in kind, like those on the Wife of Lot or on Cassandra. Most of them are concise reflections on history, on man's place in the world, on his fears, on his being great but also ridiculous in the second half of

the 20th century. Her poetry springs from the Polish lyrical tradition. What is most important however is her search for a model of contemporary humanity, equal to the time full of uncertainty and anxiety. The man depicted in her poems is one who feels himself a part not only of the family but of the whole world, as a brother of plants and animals.

Szymborska was born in Brain near Kornik, Poland, on 2 July 1923. She has been living



in Cracow since 1931. A graduate of the Cracow Jagellonian University, she made her literary debut in the Cracow-based, *Zwyc Literackie* weekly where she had her literary *Lektury*

Nadobowiazkowe. (Optional Reading List) column. She now has a column in the *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper.

Within half a century she published 15 acclaimed and critical volumes of poetry.

Szymborska is a winner of many Polish and foreign prizes, including a prize of the city of Cracow, a Ministry of Culture and the Arts award, German Goethe (1991) and Herder (1995) prizes. Recently she received a Polish PEN Club award.

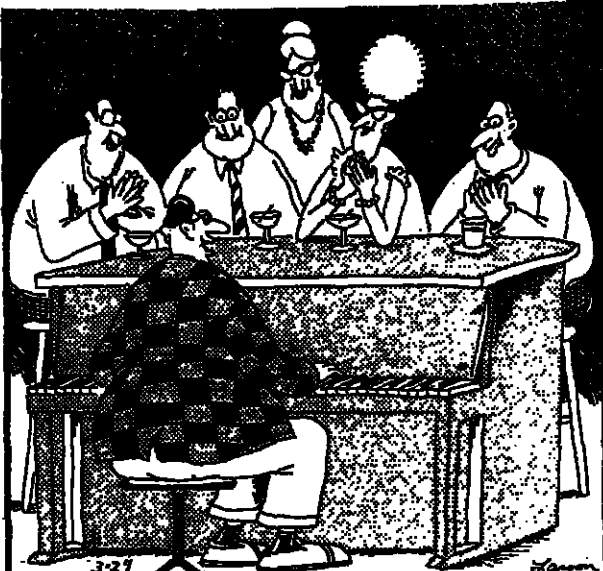
The poet joked once that she was "sentenced to hard writing." Still, she was always very careful not to write vaguely. This is why she has found so many readers who look in her poems for something more than mere beautiful words. ■

THE FAR SIDE

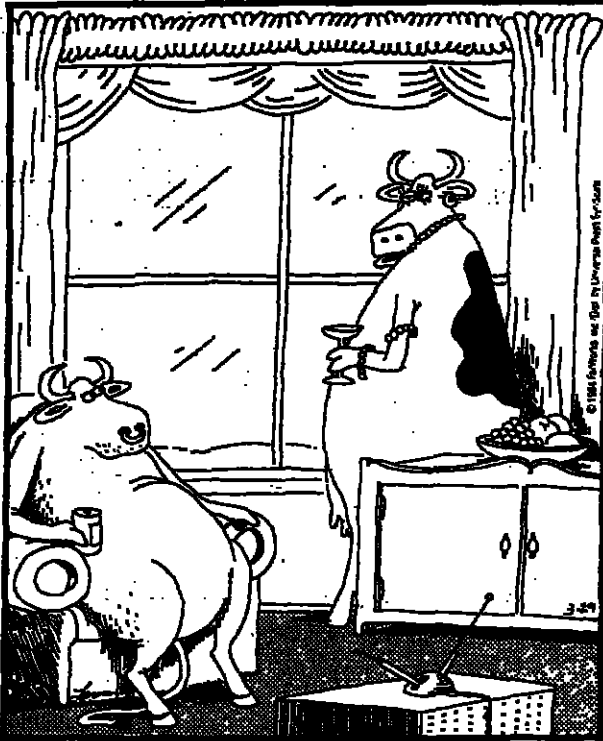
By GARY LARSON



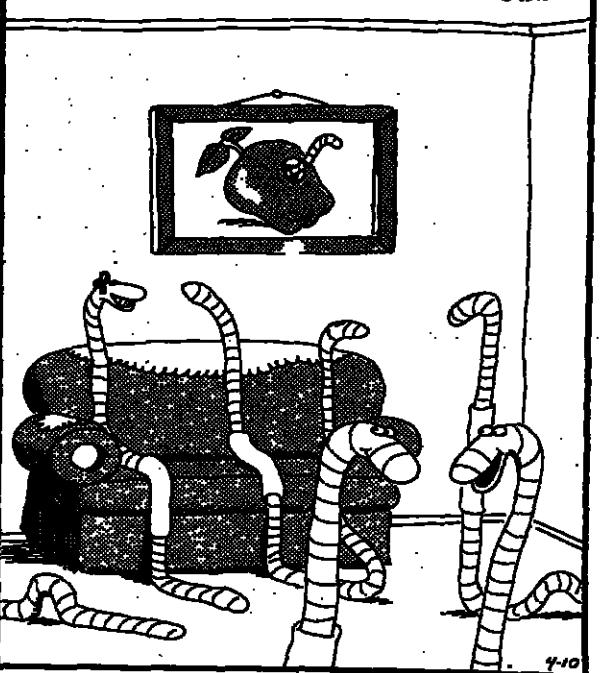
"Faster! You better get over here if you want to see Meeher's hangnail magnified 500 times."



"Hey, thank you! Thank you! That was 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon'... Now, what say we all really get down?"



"Wendell... I'm not content."

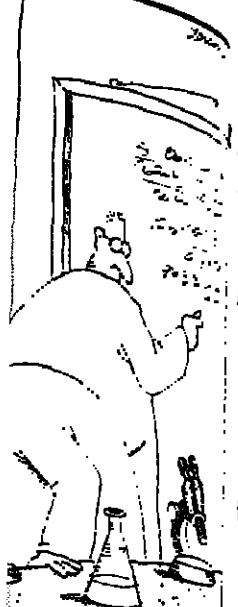


"You gotta check this out, Stuart. Vinnie's over on the couch putting the move on Zelda Schwartz—but he's talkin' to the wrong end."

AGENDA

- Exhibitions**
- Basketry Exhibition, at Jordan Design and Trade Center, ends today
 - Works by Ghada Dabdash at The French Cultural Center, continues between 2 till 29 October.
 - Works by Shreefa Hind Bin Nasser at Jordan Arts and Crafts Center/Artisana, continues between 18 November till 18 December
 - Exhibition and Sale of old postcards, photographs, and old prints by David Roberts. Focus Jerusalem, at Um El Kundum, right off the Airport highway, on the way to Arabian Horse Club. First left at the top of the hill. Friday 11 October from 11 am onwards. (see feature story on people page)
- Films**
- Providence at The French Cultural Center, 14 October, at 8 pm.

OCTOBER 1996
SIDE
GARY LARSON



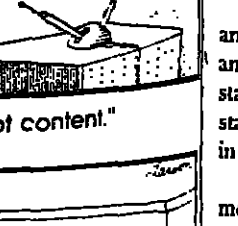
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magnified 500 times



That was 'Tie a Yellow
all really get down



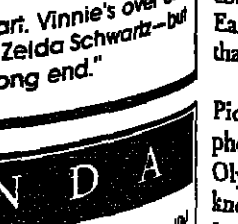
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uart. Vinnie's over on
n Zelda Schwartz—It's
wrong end."



N D A



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prints by David Roberts
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abian Horse Club fire
t at the top of the hill
s 11 October from 11 am
wards (see feature on
people pages)

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President at The
ench Cultural Center
October, at 8 pm

OCTOBER 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for

The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



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Another 'giant step for mankind' may be in offing

Red planet throws out a clue to its neighbor

The small, segmented forms have been frozen in rock for billions of years. But these 'fossils' that were carried to earth by a Martian meteorite have breathed new life into the idea that we are not alone in space. The 'red planet' may represent the first, best step towards discovering if other species share—or shared—our universe

By Deborah Shapley

THE VAST, DARK NIGHT sky is not just beautiful. It makes us wonder about the Great Beyond. The twinkling stars of Ursa Major constellation in the Northern Hemisphere and the Crux in the South makes us ask if we are alone on our narrow Earth. Or are other life forms out there, gazing at their blazing suns and nighttime stars, wondering if something like Earth is in their Great Beyond?

Our dream of finding life on other planets may yet come true. A year ago Swiss astronomers at the Geneva Observatory announced they'd found the first confirmed planet outside our solar system, in the Pegasus constellation. It was too close to its blazing sun to support life, however.

Then in February two California astronomers, Geoffrey Marcy and Paul Butler, confirmed a planet the size of Jupiter orbiting the star 47 in Ursa Major, 200 trillion miles from Earth. Their newly sensitive instruments at the Lick Observatory found another planet circling 70 Virginis in the constellation Virgo. Both are far enough from their suns to be in the "Life Zone," scientists' term for conditions that could support life.

Next, in August, US scientists announced that a meteorite from Mars found in the snows of Antarctica may hold evidence of ancient microbial life. If microorganisms did once inhabit Mars, life on Earth is not unique. The odds it could be out there in the Great Beyond seem to be growing.

All people, rich and poor, farmer and industrialist, especially children and the elderly who may gaze at the stars with the deepest curiosity, have a stake in whether there is life elsewhere in the universe.

Less obvious is what stake governments and private sector in Latin America, Africa, and Asia have in studying space and exploring Mars and beyond. One surprising answer: researchers and technologists in small and in emerging nations very likely will be involved. Space exploration is no longer a superpower monopoly.

To understand how this is happening, we must look at NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, America's US \$13.8 billion-a-year space agency.

NASA's big, glorious endeavors, when it landed the first men on the moon and invented the Space Shuttle, were products of the Cold War. The agency mounted mega-programs with the government as the sole customer, funded by taxpayers eager to beat the Soviet Union.

When the Soviets plunged ahead, as in long-term orbiting space station, the US countered with its own space station. Cost overruns in 1992 averaged 77 percent. From what we know of the Soviet program, it had a similar financial blueprint.

But in recent years, US politicians eager to cut federal spending have swept over Washington like invading aliens of science fiction. In 1993, the House of Representatives spared the smaller, redesigned US space station by a single vote. At the start of this decade, the agency expected its budget would grow to \$20 billion by the year 2000 in order to support the shuttle, the station, aerodynamics, science, and Mission to Planet Earth. Then NASA was told it should plan for \$13.1 billion by 2001, including inflation. If the latest tax-cut plans survive the November election, NASA may have just \$11.6 billion.

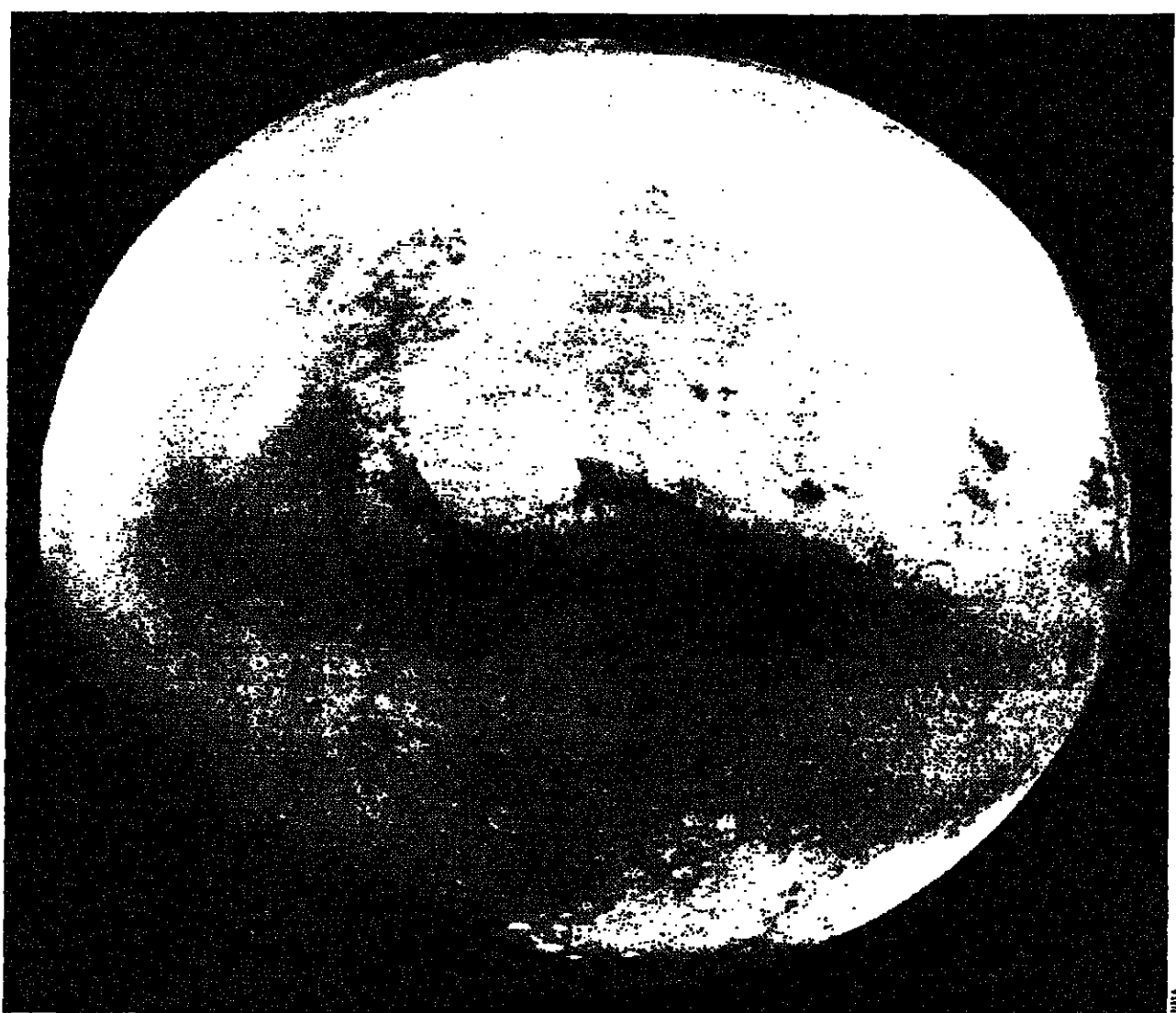
To fend off disaster, NASA's controversial administrator Daniel S. Goldin launched a new approach. Build smaller launchers and spacecraft, launch them faster, re-use every nut and bolt you can—and the cost should be cheaper per mission.

Pathfinder to put an 11 kilogram vehicle on Mars' surface in July 1997. Also this winter, the Mars Global Surveyor will go up to replace a Mars orbiter vehicle that went dead in 1993. Mars Pathfinder will cost less than 10 percent of the Viking spacecraft, our last visitor to Mars in 1976.

In the next alignment in 1998, a Japanese probe called Planet B will be



Is there life out there? Scientists believe the small, segmented line in the center of this photograph may be the fossilized remains of a microscopic organism that lived on Mars 3.6 billion years ago



Mars Facts

Diameter
of Mars: 4,200 miles
of Earth: 7,926 miles
of Jupiter: 88,000 miles

Average temperature
on Mars: 10 degrees Fahrenheit
on Earth: 72 degrees Fahrenheit

Distance from the sun
of Mars: 141,000,000 miles
of Earth: 92,900,000 miles
of Pluto: 3,600,000,000 miles

Number of moons
orbiting Mars: 2 (Deimos and Phobos)
orbiting Earth: 1
orbiting Saturn: 24

Industrial minerals on Mars: iron and magnesium

Estimated duration of manned flight to Mars surface: 331-490 days

launched to arrive at Mars in 1999. In 1998 NASA will launch the Mars Surveyor 98, arriving in 1999 or 2000. While surveyor orbits and looks at weather, a second craft will land near Mars' polar ice cap. In 2001 a joint probe will be sent with Russia. In 2005 a probe will go up which may return the first samples of Martian soil to earth in 2008. The earliest humans could go would be 2018. Meanwhile, these many precursor missions will need a breakthrough in miniaturization and robotics.

Besides scaling back mission size,

NASA has begun privatizing every possible function that does not involve strategic planning or astronaut safety. Even launch and operation of the shuttle will be done by a big US firm, Lockheed-Martin. Private industry will do tasks that used to be shared with layers of NASA employees. Industry will become the customer. In the process, more smaller players will gain a stake in space.

This is happening already as India and China become proficient in launching satellites, and Russia mar-

► RED PLANET PAGE 2

Venus kinder to Russian dreams

Getting to Mars will be a multi-cultural experience

By Yaroslav Golovanov

IT IS OFTEN ASKED who will set foot on Mars first—a Russian or an American. But this question belongs to the era of competition between the US and the former Soviet Union, an era that is ebbing away. It will be a citizen of Earth who takes that fateful step, and that is the most important thing.

In 1973, US Professor William H. Pickering gave a Soviet colleague a photograph of the Martian volcano Nix Olympica, at 90,000 feet the highest known volcano in the solar system. Pickering said then that he thought Americans would only fly to Mars with Russians because neither country could afford the trip on their own. At that time the cost of a manned expedition to Mars was estimated at US\$100 billion, a figure that should probably be doubled today.

From the Russian perspective, the money may be more of an obstacle than the technology. There are already dozens of projects for a manned flight to Mars, and practically no technical or medical problems stand in the way of undertaking such a flight. And it is in human nature to do so. We will fly to Mars for the same reasons we have climbed Mount Everest, explored the Mariana Trench and died journeying to the North and South Poles.

Furthermore, it is only by setting foot on Mars that we will finally unlock the mystery of whether or not the "red planet" harbors life. This question of life has been given a boost by the recent announcement that a meteorite recovered from Antarctica in 1984 originated from Mars and contains the traces of biological structures. But the "discovery" leaves many questions unanswered.

Why, for instance, did it take US scientists with their formidable scientific resources 12 years to analyze the meteorite? How can they be so sure that it came from Mars? As far back as 1985 German scientists questioned its origins because the gas elements it contained do not match well with what is known of the Martian atmosphere. And biological structures—which have been created in test tubes—are a far cry from living organisms that can adapt and react to their environments.

That Russians might be skeptical about Mars is not surprising. Despite its record of space exploration, and its leading role in the study of our other neighboring planet, Venus, the Soviet Union had little luck when it came to exploring Mars. This was evident from the start, when three rockets were launched during a two-week span in October, 1960.

The idea was to put the exploration vehicle in an orbit around earth, then "aim" and launch it towards Mars. The first two rockets failed to secure an orbit, while the third reached orbit but refused to leave it.

It was thus classed as a heavy satellite to avoid exposing the imperfections of Soviet technology. Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, was carrying a model of the exploratory vehicle which he planned to give to US president Dwight Eisenhower as proof of communism's superiority. The model stayed in the enraged Khrushchev's pocket.

That Russians might be skeptical is not surprising. Despite its leading role in the study of our other neighboring planet, Venus, the Soviet Union had little luck when it came to exploring Mars

The first real launch of a Soviet space vehicle came on November 1, 1962. Everything went smoothly at first, but some tiny particle—perhaps a human hair—got under a valve cap and allowed the gas needed for course corrections to slowly bleed away. Four months into the voyage, the craft went out of control and contact with it was lost.

The Soviet Union's run of bad luck continued. While it succeeded in mapping and studying Venus, efforts to reach Mars kept breaking down. In 1964 communication was again lost. In 1969 there was an accident during the launch. In 1971 a vehicle made a soft landing on Mars, but 20 seconds after

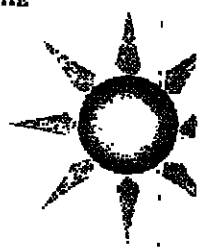
the first successful touchdown communication with the craft failed. After this, there was a 15-year lull in the efforts to reach and study Mars. In 1988, two satellites were

launched, but neither was able to carry out its mission. The next flight is planned for 1997.

It is ironic that Mars, the Roman god of war, has been so uncooperative with a program that in the past was justifiably accused of having military overtones. But regardless of whether the attempt was prompted by military or civilian considerations, it is difficult to discern life that is over 150 million kilometers away. Remote-controlled study—or even the delivery of Martian soil by an unmanned craft—are not likely to solve the riddle posed by the meteorite and its enigmatic "fossils."

Is there life on Mars? That question will not be answered until a Russian, American, German or Japanese researcher returns from Mars with a tiny creature—fresh or fossilized—in a Tic-Tac box. ☺

YAROSLAV GOLOVANOV IS THE AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS BOOKS ON SPACE, AND WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE SOVIET UNION'S FIRST "JOURNALIST IN SPACE" PROGRAM.



Rice seedlings reluctant to work their passage

So far, agriculture in space yields more chaff than wheat

By Cameron Brandt

SMALL AND GREEN, they grew intermittently, changing direction in a puzzled search for the light as they hurried through space with scientists studying each move.

Men from Mars? In fact, the small green organisms were rice plants, brought aboard the Skylab that the US sent into orbit around the Earth in 1973. According to the scientists that studied them, the irregular development was tied to the lack of gravity that, on Earth, plays a part in distributing growth hormones evenly throughout plants.

If humans are to venture deeper into space, they will have to help food plants such as these rice seedlings get their bearings and deal with weightlessness. Extra-terrestrial agriculture will not only be a matter of calories and protein either; it will be a matter of having oxygen to breathe, water to drink and a way of processing human waste so that it can be reused over and over again.

Most realistic plans for long-range space exploration and the settlement of planets such as Mars call for agricultural systems that will process human wastes, recycling them into plant matter, oxygen and water that can be used again and again. Without such a system, the logistics of settlement and travel become prohibitive—according to a 1991 report by the International Mars Mission, an eight-person crew that set off on a 700-day round-trip to Mars without any means of recycling water would have to find space on their ship for 116.8 tons of it.

Based on the research to date, plants do not like space travel. Soviet and Russian astronauts spent a great deal of time and effort trying to get plants ranging from wheat to orchids to reach the flowering or seed stage. By using special fertilizers and artificial light, they eventually succeeded in getting a weed called arabisopsis to produce seeds, paving the way for limited success with food species such as sunflowers, peas, tomatoes and wheat. The lesson: plants in space will need considerable mechanical support if they are to grow and fulfill the roles of food source, filtration system and oxygen supply.

On the ground, the Russians have had more success, developing high-yield crops and artificial soil that may allow for a "garden" that can feed a spaceship's crew without taking up too much space.

One of the most publicized attempts to find out how feasible enclosed agricultural systems are is the privately funded Biosphere II project in the US. In 1991 eight people entered an airtight dome encompassing 3 acres of Arizona's Sonoran desert and stayed there for two years. They emerged, thin, tired and fixated by the idea of food. The air they left behind had 30 percent less oxygen than when they entered, and the food they succeeded in growing fell short of the group's needs.

Though controversy dogged the US\$150 million project—10 tons of oxygen had to be pumped into the biosphere and a panel of scientific advisors resigned—some important lessons were learned. The key one is that many of the microbes that help make soil "work" by absorbing elements such as nitrogen and breaking down organic matter also consume oxygen: in the case of the Biosphere II, they consumed more oxygen than the plants put out. Regulating the balance of microbes so that the oxygen flow remains positive and the soil stays fertile will be one of the major challenges to successful agriculture in space.

Agriculture on Earth also involves the raising of livestock, fish and poultry for meat and eggs. Translating this branch of agriculture into space is problematic: animals consume the same resources—oxygen and food—that hu-

mans do, in effect competing with space farmers for the benefits provided by plant crops. US researchers believe that some small animals, such as rabbits, may have a niche because they can utilize plant leaves and stalks that are inedible for humans.

Plants in space will need considerable mechanical support if they are to grow and fulfill the roles of food source, filtration system and oxygen supply

Could agriculture on Mars ever leave the shelter of greenhouses, allowing for more natural growing cycle? Visionaries such as Arthur C. Clarke say yes, but

only in the footsteps of non-agricultural plants such as lichens, ferns and, eventually, trees. In his book, *The Snows of Olympus: A Garden on Mars*, Clarke draws a picture of a centuries-long process of "terraforming," with plants from earth slowly converting the carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere to oxygen and water.

By Clarke's estimate, it could easily be 800 years before the atmosphere is thick enough and water abundant enough to undertake "outdoor" farming. Even then, the growing season will be limited by extremely cold winters. ☐

CAMERON BRANDT IS MANAGING EDITOR OF *The World Paper*.

RED PLANET

Continued from page 1

kets its launch capabilities to the world.

NASA is unlikely to contract with foreign firms directly. Spokeswoman Lisa Schaffer says its "strategy is to stimulate the US private sector. But we have no problem with US prime contractors entering into subcontracts with non-US entities or foreign suppliers. NASA's approach would be to pursue joint interests cooperatively with another country with no exchange of funds," she adds.

Translation: would-be satellite builders, planetary scientists, and space explorers should look to their own governments and regional entities first.

NASA does, however, look to internationalize space exploration. Associate Administrator for Space Science Wesley T.

Huntress Jr. recently told Congress that, "We'd like to change to true partnerships with other nations." France, Germany, Austria and Denmark are

already committed to putting instruments on this year's US missions, and the UK and Finland will contribute in 1998.

As smaller countries use their own—or their region's—launch and control capabilities, technologists around the world can look to putting experiments on the space station or sending their own probes to the planets.

Though we all dream about visiting Mars and beyond, the reality is that humans won't go there for at least two decades. For the moment, robots will represent us. The Voyager spacecraft, which will soon leave the solar system, sending only a weak signal back, is one

such representative.

"Growing out of those dreams and into reality can be a painful experience," Goldin noted in one of his many

speeches about dreams, space, and management reforms. "Adjusting to reality from the beauty of our dreams is [our] challenge," he added.

As NASA adjusts to the painful financial reality that it cannot explore space alone, and must work with others wherever possible, the door is opening for non-Americans to realize their dreams of being pioneers in space. ☐

DEBORAH SHAPLEY IS A WASHINGTON, D.C.-BASED WRITER SPECIALIZING IN SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES. HER MOST RECENT BOOK IS *Promise and Power: The life and times of Robert McNamara*.

Way to Woman's Heart May Be Food Rich in Vitamin E
Health Gain Seen in Margarine,

To E or Not to E
Another reason to eat

Mayo and margarine rich in vitamin E

BOSTON — Don't hold the mayo, after all. Or the margarine or salad dressing. 34,856 older women with no outward signs of heart trouble. Just 242 died of heart disease during seven years of follow-up.

More benefits from Vitamin E
Supplements found to slow brain, immune system decline

Vitamin E in high-fat food lowers women's chance of heart disease, study finds

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BOSTON — Don't hold the mayo, after all. Or the margarine or salad dressing.

Evidence is building that reasonable amounts of the foods—shunned by many because they are so high in fat—can be an important part of a heart-

Of course, too much high food of any kind is not a idea, and Kushi noted the women who benefited

Women Told to Get Vitamin E in Diet for Heart

BOSTON, May 1 (AP) — Post-

percent when taken by people with bad hearts. The new study looked at

the least to die of coronary heart disease. Those in the highest

Vitamin E in moderation may protect heart

By Nanci Hellmich
USA TODAY

vitamin E to a healthy heart. Researchers surveyed 34,856 postmenopausal women about their eating habits in 1980 and followed up about

with those eating diets low in these foods. The highest group got more than 10 IU of vitamin E from food daily, the equivalent of about 20

them. "I wouldn't go overboard with them, but I wouldn't necessarily cut them out entirely," says the

School of Public Health, says "one of the unfortunate parts of the fat phob-

By 1997, ADM will have the capacity to supply 300 million people with the current recommended daily allowance of vitamin E.



ADM

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Up Close and Personal

Celebs...



● Larger than life super tenor Luciano Pavarotti was in high spirits checking his new venue in Pesaro. The fatman was all smiles until he decided to get a little theatrical with his lower torso. But really Mr Pavarotti does not look very comfortable at all.

The Star's GUIDE TV

Programs on JTV
from 12-18 October

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Adventures of Mickey and Donald
- 2:30—Bold and Beautiful
- 3:00—French Program
- 3:30—French Program
- 4:00—Gillette (sports)
- 4:30—Big Brother Jake
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:01—French Program
- 5:15—Blue Heelers
- 6:00—Jake
- 6:01—French Program
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Something Wilder
- 8:01—New Literacy (Doc)
- 8:30—Prism
- 9:10—Lois and Clarke
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:20—The Alamo (Mini Series)

SUNDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Fievel American Tails
- 2:30—You Bet Your Life
- 3:00—French Program
- 3:30—French Program
- 4:00—World Echo (Doc)
- 4:30—The Famous Five
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:15—Search and Rescue
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- 8:01—Auto Classics

MONDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Bold and Beautiful
- 3:00—French Program
- 3:30—French Program
- 4:00—Nature Inventions
- 4:30—Hey Dad
- 5:00—News Flash
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Rosanne
- 8:01—Disaster Chronicle
- 8:30—Cinema, Cinema
- 9:10—The Lazarus Man
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Mini Series
- 11:15—Bodies Of Evidence

TUESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Budgie (Cartoon)
- 2:30—I Love Lucy
- 3:00—French Program
- 3:30—Montague
- 4:00—At The 200
- 5:00—News Flash
- 6:00—French Program
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Murphy Brown
- 8:01—Man Alive (Doc)
- 8:30—Encounter
- 9:10—Star Trek



1 Who's the Boss, Wednesday at 12:00pm

- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—China Beach
- 11:15—Mission Impossible
- 12:00—Are You Being Served

WEDNESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Bold and Beautiful
- 3:00—Pyramide
- 3:30—French Program
- 4:00—Earth Revealed
- 4:30—Blizzard Island
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:15—The Adventurers
- 5:30—Kelly
- 6:00—French Program
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—The Four Seasons
- 8:00—Super Stars of Action
- 8:30—Challenges
- 9:10—NBA
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Bugs (Drama)
- 11:15—Hart To Hart
- 12:00—Who's The Boss

THURSDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:30—Take Your Pick
- 3:00—French Program
- 3:30—Feature Film
- 5:00—News Flash
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Pacific station
- 8:01—American Chart Show
- 8:30—Material World
- 9:10—Kung Fu
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Feature Film
- 12:00—Tarata

FRIDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris/Muppet Show
- 2:30—Playabout
- 3:00—See How They Grow
- 3:30—French Cartoon
- 4:00—Crystal Maze
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:01—Name Your Adventure

- 5:10—French Program
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Growing Pains
- 8:01—Secret Weapons
- 8:30—Hunter
- 9:10—The Wanderer
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Classic Movie
- 12:00—Family Matters

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

- 3:00—Documentaire
La France aux 1000 villages
-L'Occident-
- 3:30—Emission jeunesse
Fête des bébés
- 6:00—Série
Jack
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine
Ziva

DIMANCHE

- 3:00—Emission jeunesse
Cajou
- 3:30—Divertissement
Week-ends spéciaux
- 6:00—Magazine
Faut pas rêver
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

- 3:00—Variétés
L'intégrale
-Juni Jackson-
- 3:30—Documentaire
Travelling gourmet
- 6:00—Magazine
Cassiope
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

- 3:00—Dessins animés
- 3:15—Magazine

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Video releases

"RACE THE SUN" (Columbia/Tristar, 1): Halle Berry has had considerable action in her movies lately ("The Rich Man's Wife," "Executive Decision"), but she's involved in a different sort of adventure in this fact-based tale set in Hawaii. She plays a teacher who inspires her students to construct a solar-powered race car, which they then enter in an Australian competition; James Belushi also appears. ** (PG; P, V)

"ANTONIA'S LOVE" (BMG, 1): The most recent winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, writer-director Marleen Gorris' internationally acclaimed Dutch-Belgian-British co-production is a comedy-drama about a woman who lives with her daughter in the wake of World War II, eventually taking many others in the neighborhood under her wing. Willeke van Ammelrooy and Els Dottermans star. *** (R; AS, P)

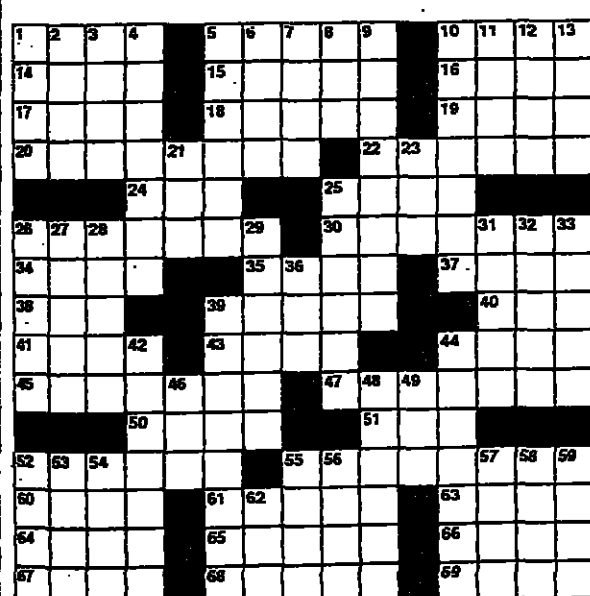
COMING SOON: "FEAR" (MCA/Universal, Oct. 15): Richard Gere stars as a media-savvy defense attorney who starts to believe his latest client may be guilty of murder. (R)

"THE ARRIVAL" (LIVE, Oct. 22): Charlie Sheen plays a dedicated radio astronomer determined to prove that extraterrestrial life does exist on Earth. (PG-13)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1—Well that ends...
 - 5 Choir singers' org.
 - 14—opera
 - 15 Overact
 - 17 Biblical weed
 - 18 Harpo
 - 19 Domes
 - 20 Great Lake
 - 21 Practicing for
 - 22 "Stan"
 - 24 Bo Derek number
 - 25 Applaud
 - 26 Distressed
 - 30 Hashes over
 - 34 Break
 - 35 Asian bigwig
 - 37 Prolound
 - 38 St address
 - 39 Iron
 - 40 Scottish negative
 - 43 Formal act
 - 44 Kirk of firms
 - 45 Satisfied
 - 47 Furniture
 - 50 Be bested
 - 51 Newspaper notices
 - 52 Get under one's skin
 - 55 Flamingo from office
 - 60 El—
 - 61 Ingenious
 - 63 Scott
 - 64 Neighbor of W.S.
 - 65 Track official
 - 66 Prefix for phone or ton
 - 67 Deer
 - 68 Suffix after mob and tip
 - 69 Lenient
 - DOWN
 - 1 Snakes
 - 2 Chicago
 - 3 Refrain syllables
 - 4 Wore
 - 5 Proudly document
 - 6 Coat, in a way
 - 6 Portent
 - 7 Taurus ace
 - 8 WWII theatre
 - 9 Pioneers
 - 10 Brewed tea
 - 11 Friendly
 - 12 Opera solo
 - 13 Hammer head
 - 21 Chargemen's title: abbr.
 - 23 Fedora, for one
 - 25 Difficult times
 - 26 Hold firmly
 - 27 Drive away
 - 28—ear and out...
 - 31 Russian leader, once
 - 32 Rental
 - 33 Asparagus unit
 - 36 Has a session
 - 39 Gifts
 - 42 Making a speech
 - 44 Nimble
 - 46 The sun
 - 48 Candles
 - 49 Hubbub
 - 52 L.A. team
 - 53 Landed
 - 54 Vessel of 1492
 - 55 Coin
 - 56 At any time
 - 57 Brainstorm
 - 58 Alcoholic drinks
 - 59 Drab
 - 62 Islet

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: You might find yourself spending more time at the library, not because you have to, but just for the fun of it.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Your workout will be loads of fun, but don't expect to break any records.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Stay home and finish old business. Start a project with your true love—or your favorite candidate for that job.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You'll learn well, but be careful. Garbage in = garbage out, remember? You'll fall into the social whirl.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Shop only for necessities. Start a household project and get it wrapped up. Write.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Finish old projects instead of starting new ones. Buy something to make your life easier and something for your sweet-heart.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Hold your breath and don't make waves. You'll be riding higher in the water soon. Balance your checkbook and pay all the overdue bills.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll have a great time at the gym, whether your team wins or not. Keep your nose to the grindstone.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Go along with an obnoxious supervisor's demands, without showing your disgust. Get together with friends to work on a project.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A trip won't turn out as planned, but it should be fun anyway. You'll be tormented by pedantic people. Get as close to perfection as possible.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your worries about money won't materialize. These are fabulous days for studying foreign words. You may get the chance to try out your new knowledge on a real live native-born speaker.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your competitor's plans go awry, giving you another chance to win. You'll be in the mood to travel, if you can get away. If not, catch up on your reading and correspondence.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't let financial worries distract you from your work. Catch a mistake before it goes any further. Get a partner to help you set your agenda, so you'll have more free time.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Follow a strong leader this year—with the intention of taking over the job. Finishing up the old stuff makes room for the new.

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Bridge

Prepare the Ground
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
▲K94
♦KJ1092
♥K7
▲AJ5

WEST
▲Void
♥8764
♦8653
▲KQ983

EAST
▲Q765
♥A53
♦AJ102
▲104

SOUTH
▲AJ10832
♥Q
♦Q94
▲762

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 2NT Pass
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Having too many trumps can be as bad for declarer as having too few. Fortunately, the former is usually easy to cure.

North's two no trump response asked South, Jon Greenspan of Manhattan, to describe his holding.

Three spades showed a good hand for

a weak two-bid and a good suit, so North wasted no time in bidding game.

The opening lead of the king of clubs was ducked in dummy as East followed with the ten. Since there was no entry in the West hand to give partner a ruff, the defender shifted to the eight of diamonds. When declarer followed low from the table, East inserted the ten and declarer's queen won.

The queen of hearts lost to the ace, and East did as well as possible by cashing the ace of diamonds and continuing with the jack, forcing dummy to ruff.

Next came the key move—declarer ruffed a heart in hand. When a spade to the king uncovered the 4-0 break, South was in command. The nine of spades was run, and another heart ruff brought declarer's trump length down to that of East.

The rest of the hand was a formality. A low club to the jack provided the entry for declarer to start running hearts. East discarded a diamond and declarer parted with a club, but East was forced to ruff the next heart, and it made no difference whether the defender ruffed high or low. Declarer simply overruffed and scored the last trick with the high trump.

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Sana, a new dimension in optics world

AMMAN (Star)—Sana Optical Store opened recently its doors for adults and young people to enjoy whatever they have dreamt of in the optical world.

Located at the Seventh Circle, the shop is finely decorated making visitors feel home. Mrs Sana'a Hindash, general manager and optical specialist said. She added that "we decided to buy the shop in the second floor of Al Quqa Commercial Complex and not on the Ground Floor so as to give customers the opportunity to roam around freely. Visitors can enjoy watching the wide range of glasses, frames and lenses in a quite atmosphere undisturbed by the outside hustle and bustle."

"Beside all the above mentioned facilities, the shop devotes a special corner for kids who can find their favorite kinds of glasses and frames such as Barbie, Ninja Turtles and others."

Visitors to Sana Optical Shop will feel the difference. Special prices are worth a deal there.



Hindash



Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOBAL
THOOP
TULYS
SINUGE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HIS

JOHS BEST ANSWER: What the portrait photographer gave the family.

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Words of Wisdom

Most people don't recognize an opportunity before someone else has seized it.

When a relationship becomes dutiful, it is not worth sustaining.

He who lies never believes anything anybody else says.

Knowledge is powerful only in how you use it.

Honor is bestowed for what we give others, not for what we take.

The silliest cause makes the most noise.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

SELON

Dans sa course

vers le modernisme, la Jordanie a hérité de nombreux maux étrangers qui lui causent à la fois peur et inquiétude. Il suffit de prendre au hasard un hebdomadaire jordanien pour se croire en train de feuilleter France Soir ou d'habiter dans le Sud de l'Italie et non pas dans un pays conservateur du Moyen-Orient.

Crime, vol, suicide, viol, prostitution ou adultère sont les nouveaux ingrédients que les Jordaniens sont désormais obligés d'intégrer à leur vie quotidienne.

En l'espace d'une semaine, une vingtaine de vols ont été perpétrés dans le même quartier d'Amman. La capitale n'est plus la sécuritaire ville d'autan car des groupes de vandales plus ou moins organisés ou parfois de simples amateurs guettent le silence de certaines maisons soigneusement choisies pour bricoler en toute tranquillité.

Le Jordanien devient nerveux, impulsif, facilement irritable et on apprend régulièrement qu'une ou plusieurs personnes ont été tuées par un proche, un ami ou un inconnu pour des raisons ne méritant pas une telle sauvagerie.

Voilà un mois, un jeune a été tué et un autre grièvement blessé parce qu'ils s'étaient permis de demander aux passagers d'une voiture de baisser le son de leur discotèque ambulante en plein quartier résidentiel au milieu de la nuit.

Voilà vingt ans, le suicide n'existait pas en Jordanie. Or, 550 tentatives de suicide ont été rendues publiques l'année passée, en plus de celles tenues secrètes pour ne pas déshonorer l'image des familles. On devrait commencer à sérieusement s'inquiéter de l'avenir incertain de beaucoup de jeunes qui errent sans but dans les rues et les bords de la capitale.

Il y a deux mois, les Jordaniens étaient choqués de découvrir le crime ignoble perpétré par un travailleur sur une jeune médecin de 26 ans, violée et étranglée dans son appartement. Hélas, il ne se passe pas une semaine sans que l'on ne découvre des histoires aussi atroces, telles que le viol de lycéens par des enseignants.

Hormis pour quelques toxicomanes et certains amateurs de poudre blanche, la Jordanie ne représente qu'un lieu de passage incontournable pour les trafiquants de drogue entre le Liban et les pays du Golfe. En six mois, la police a saisi et détruit plus de drogue que durant les quinze dernières années.

On trouve certes les mêmes facteurs en Jordanie pour expliquer cette montée de la criminalité que dans les pays européens. Mais il régnait sous nos cieux un stress particulièrement effrayant que provoque l'incertitude des lendemains et la crainte d'un présent peu plaisant.

L'effondrement du rôle de la famille dans une société jadis très solidaire associée aux problèmes économiques désastreux font que le Jordanien est à la recherche permanente d'une nouvelle identité qui l'aide à s'adapter au changement brutal de son mode de vie et aux multiples contraintes qui le déboulonnent.

En attendant, nos hebdomadaires vont certainement avoir de quoi remplir leurs pages de crimes purement autochtones sans avoir besoin de copier leurs confrères occidentaux. ■

Souhail Al Sweis

Les islamistes posent leurs conditions

Les récentes déclarations de députés du Front de l'Action islamique sur une éventuelle participation au gouvernement agitent la scène politique jordanienne. Pour les responsables du Front, une telle participation n'est en tout cas pas envisageable avec la politique actuelle du gouvernement de M. Kabariti.

Les islamistes, qui rejettent toute participation au gouvernement depuis la conférence de Madrid en 1991, se disent prêts aujourd'hui à partager le pouvoir exécutif. Mais ils posent leurs conditions.

La démocratie et le respect des droits de l'Homme sont, selon le député islamiste de la chambre basse du parlement Bassam Emoush, une condition requise pour une éventuelle participation au gouvernement.

«Notre participation est conditionnée par la volonté du gouvernement de changer la loi électorale actuelle et d'introduire des mesures strictes qui garantissent des élections justes et libres», insiste Dr. Emoush, également membre du bureau exécutif du Front de l'Action islamique (FAI).

Le Front, extension politique des frères musulmans, a participé au gouvernement de Mudar Badran en 1990 après que le Premier ministre ait accepté les propositions des islamistes qui visaient «à accélérer l'application de la loi islamique». Quand les chefs

des pays arabes ont consenti à chercher une solution pacifique au problème palestinien, les islamistes, et le Front en particulier, ont rejeté toute participation dans un gouvernement qui accepterait de baser sa politique sur les principes de la conférence de Madrid, à savoir l'acceptation de la normalisation avec Israël. Car selon le mouvement, un tel processus de paix ne peut pas survivre.

Depuis février dernier et l'arrivée du Premier ministre Abdul Karim Kabariti, le Front a connu plusieurs bouleversements. Deux députés islamistes, Ahmad Kasasbeh et Theib Abdullah, parmi les 16 députés qui formaient le bloc du Front à la chambre basse, ont démissionné en raison de leur sympathie affichée vis-à-vis du nouveau gouvernement. Plusieurs autres députés islamistes ont protesté contre la décision du Front de ne pas participer au gouvernement. Les différences entre les modérés et les durs du parti se sont aggravées. Alors que les durs rejettent catégoriquement toute participation tant que la Jordanie poursuit la normalisation avec Israël, les modérés

craignent eux que le processus de paix ne s'arrête pas dans un futur proche. Or, si tel est le cas, ils refusent d'être écartés trop longtemps du pouvoir exécutif.

«L'importance de la participation au gouvernement est d'être au sein de l'exécutif pour pouvoir prendre part aux décisions», explique Dr. Emoush, qui est aussi président du comité des libertés publiques à la chambre basse, tout en écartant la possibilité de participer au cabinet de Kabariti. Selon lui, les islamistes ne veulent pas rejoindre un gouvernement qui ne jouit pas d'une grande popularité. «Yu-t-il quel'un qui accepterait de partager la mauvaise réputation de ce gouvernement?», ajoute-t-il.

Selon le député islamiste Mohammad Oweidah, le gouvernement a commis d'autres erreurs que sa politique de normalisation avec Israël. «Au départ, c'est la politique annoncée de M. Kabariti de maintenir le processus de normalisation et de renouer des relations avec Israël qui nous a dissuadé de rejoindre ce gouvernement», explique Dr. Oweidah, secrétaire général du Front. «A présent, notre position s'est renforcée avec le bilan assez négatif de ce cabinet au niveau de la politique intérieure.»

Le Dr. Oweidah fait ainsi allusion à la récente décision du gouvernement de pratiquement tripler le prix du pain. Des émeutes et des actes de vandalisme ont eu lieu dans les villes de Karak, Tafleeh et Ma'an après cette décision.

«Toucher à la nourriture de base des Jordaniens n'était pas une bonne décision. La manière dont le gouvernement a pris cette décision était autoritaire, ne respectant ni les souhaits des ministres ni les souhaits des députés», explique le député islamiste F. Amman



Pour Bassam Emoush, il est normal que plusieurs opinions se fassent entendre au sein du Front.

Sa'eed. Le Front, qui n'a pas pris part aux émeutes, affirme toutefois avoir préparé le terrain et l'atmosphère générale qui a débouché sur cette contestation de la population.

Dr. Sa'eed, qui représente l'aile dure du plus grand parti politique du royaume, estime que le Front a une influence immense, même lorsque ses membres sont en dehors du cabinet. Selon lui, le Front a fait preuve, à maintes reprises, de sa capacité à influencer les décisions du gouvernement sans en faire partie. Pour lui, c'est au contraire le gouvernement qui a besoin du Front pour renforcer sa position.

«Le Front islamiste est un mouvement d'opposition influent», souligne-t-il. «Si nous avions participé à ce cabinet, nous aurions déçu nos membres.»

«Nous ne sommes pas opposés à la participation au gouvernement pour la seule raison de s'y opposer. Au contraire. Ce qui est normal, c'est que le mouvement islamiste, qui compte 15 députés au Parle-

ment, soit capable de faire entendre sa voix. C'est un droit légitime», déclare Dr. Oweidah. «Mais nous considérons que l'intérêt du citoyen nous oblige à écarter cette éventualité pour l'instant.»

Ces trois députés insistent toutefois sur le fait que le débat autour de cette éventuelle participation au gouvernement n'a pas engendré de dissension au sein du Front. «Avoir plusieurs opinions dans un mouvement n'est ni grand ni influent que le FAI est tout à fait normal», souligne Bassam Emoush. «Dans l'Islam, il y a plusieurs tendances. Au bout du compte, nous nous engageons à appliquer la décision des dirigeants du Front.»

Un remaniement ou un changement ministériel est prévu au moins quelques mois avant les élections parlementaires qui se tiendront en 1997. Il reste à savoir si la nomination de ce nouveau gouvernement entraînera de nouvelles tensions, voire une rupture, au sein du Front islamique. ■

Oroub el Abed

Jordanie

Palestiniens

La paix en attente

Le retour au calme après des émeutes qui ont fait 83 morts a permis au dialogue de reprendre. Mais le processus de paix reste au point mort.

«Nous avons donné une nouvelle chance à la paix et nous allons maintenant attendre de voir ce qu'il se passe». Voilà la réponse qu'a faite Yasser Arafat aux journalistes à son retour de Washington et de différentes rencontres qui l'ont amené à Paris, Rome, Tunis et Rabat.

Avec ces propos mesurés, le chef de l'OLP cherche à ne pas dramatiser les résultats du sommet auquel il a participé en compagnie de Benjamin Netanyahu, de Bill Clinton et du roi Hussein de Jordanie. Un sommet qui, selon beaucoup d'observateurs, s'est soldé par un échec.

Si Yasser Arafat souhaite éviter d'employer le terme échec, c'est essentiellement parce que les discussions continuent actuellement entre les Israéliens et les Palestiniens au poste d'Erez à la frontière entre la bande de Gaza et Israël.

Le fait de ne pas parler d'échec ne signifie pas en tout cas que ce sommet ait été un succès. Même Nabil Shaat, ministre de la planification et de la coopération, décrit comme un «optimiste historique», a déclaré qu'il était peu optimiste par rapport aux intentions d'Israël. Pour lui, les Palestiniens refusent d'employer le terme «négociation» pour désigner les pourparlers de Washington et d'Erez car parler de négociations implique de déboucher sur un accord. Or, il existe déjà un accord signé le 29 septembre 1995 qu'il faut respecter, et non chercher à renégocier.

Selon Nabil Shaat, la direction palestinienne refuse catégoriquement toute modification de ses accords.

Pour permettre à ces discussions de progresser, l'Union européenne a proposé son aide en jouant un rôle de médiateur. Nabil Shaat a d'ailleurs souligné l'importance de ce rôle européen, en remerciant l'Union pour l'aide financière qu'elle a accordée ces derniers jours aux Palestiniens.

Un autre protagoniste à vu son rôle se renforcer avec cette crise israélo-palestinienne. Il s'agit de l'Égypte et de son président Hosni Moubarak qui jouit d'une très forte cote de popularité dans le monde arabe après son refus de se rendre à la conférence de Washington.

C'est justement sur une pression commune des Arabes que compte l'Autorité nationale palestinienne pour faire progresser la situation. Elle souhaite qu'un sommet arabe extraordinaire ait lieu si aucun progrès n'est enregistré d'ici un mois. Une réunion à laquelle cette fois l'Irak serait invité à annoncer Yaqub Abdelrahim, secrétaire général de la présidence palestinienne. La région toute entière, et non seulement le processus de paix israélo-palestinien, se trouve donc dans une période décisive. ■

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi



Yasser Arafat et Benjamin Netanyahu lors du sommet de Washington.

Économie

Les secousses continuent

Chaque nouvelle tension politique dans la région contribue à ébranler l'économie jordanienne. Car sans stabilité politique dans la région, la Jordanie ne peut pas espérer s'appuyer sur le secteur du tourisme, primordial pour son économie.

La Jordanie a malheureusement assisté à de nombreux changements dans la conjoncture économique régionale ces dernières années. D'un point de vue économique, on peut les comparer à des tremblements de terre. Et ces secousses ont contribué à déstabiliser l'économie jordanienne, et ce particulièrement depuis la déliquescence d'août 1990 et l'embargo imposé à l'Irak.

Aujourd'hui, l'émergence d'une nouvelle politique israélienne avec Benjamin Netanyahu est un bouleversement de trop. Les nerfs déjà fragiles des Jordaniens ont fini par craquer après les récentes violences commises à l'encontre des Palestiniens. Le développement de l'économie palestinienne avant l'arrivée du Likoud au pouvoir laissait espérer à la Jordanie des retombées positives.

Un secteur était particulièrement prometteur: celui du tourisme. Beaucoup de voyageurs effectuent en effet un voyage global dans la région qui les amène des deux côtés du Jourdain. Or après les troubles de la fin septembre dans les territoires palestiniens, et sans oublier ceux du mois d'août en Jordanie, les espoirs d'établir un nouveau record en

ce qui concerne le nombre de touristes en Jordanie (1,1 million en 1995) se sont évanouis. L'économie jordanienne n'est en fait pas du tout indépendante de celles de ses voisins. Dans le cadre du processus de paix, la Jordanie peut envisager une nouvelle ère qui donnera une chance à son économie. Mais la triste réalité actuelle montre que ce rêve dépend beaucoup de la bonne volonté israélienne.

La Jordanie a déjà commencé à ouvrir son économie à Israël. Mais pour entretenir des relations solides, elle a besoin de pouvoir compter sur l'État hébreu qui applique actuellement une politique trop changeante.

Dans ce climat tendu, la Jordanie tente tout de même de développer de nouvelles structures d'accueil pour les touristes. Pour répondre aux de-

mandes des touristes, Aqaba est sur le point de se doter d'un golf qui devrait être inclus dans un complexe hôtelier cinq étoiles. Treize hôtels et deux villages vacances sont prévus dans le cadre du projet régional de développement touristique TEAM (Taha-Eilat-Aqaba-Macroarea). Une initiative soutenue par l'Union européenne.

Cependant, la tâche majeure qui reste à accomplir reste la construction d'une réelle stabilité politique dans la région pour permettre un essor important du tourisme. Israéliens, Palestiniens et Jordaniens ne parviendront pas à se mettre à l'abri de nouvelles secousses. ■

Riad al Khouri Meba S.A.R.L.



La question de Jérusalem reste l'une des plus épineuses dans les relations israélo-arabes et dans les négociations israélo-palestiniennes à venir.

plique Subhi Ghosheh. «Nous tenons à restituer la vérité scientifique et historique concernant la ville sainte face aux opérations de propagande sioniste.»

Ainsi, le symposium a couvert un large champ historique allant de la préhistoire, avec l'intervention du Dr. Thompson de Copenhague traitant de la population de Jérusalem avant la période gréco-romaine, à des sujets plus contemporains tels que le droit au retour des déplacés de 1948 avec la Dr John B. Quickley de l'université d'Ohio. La dizaine d'interventions était liée à quatre points essentiels: «démontrer les allégations des Israéliens au sujet de leurs soi-disant droits sur la ville sainte, montrer les violations perpétrées par l'État hébreu, analyser l'échec de l'ONU incapable de résoudre le problème de Jérusalem et recueillir le droit

des réfugiés palestiniens à revenir dans Jérusalem». Le CJI est une organisation indépendante qui ne reçoit aucune aide financière. Pour cette raison, et pour aider à faire connaître les problèmes et la culture de cette ville, une exposition était simultanément organisée au Centre culturel royal, ainsi qu'un spectacle folklorique dans un grand hôtel.

A l'issue de chaque symposium, le comité envoie une série de recommandations à la Ligue arabe. «Par ce biais, nous avons réussi à faire inscrire la question de Jérusalem au programme d'un certain nombre d'universités arabes qui ont à leur tour organisé des conférences sur Jérusalem», explique Subhi Ghosheh.

Le symposium de 1996 est tombé à point nommé pour rappeler la place centrale qu'a la question de Jérusalem dans le conflit israélo-arabe. Les ré-

cents troubles provoqués par l'ouverture d'un tunnel proche de la mosquée Al Aqsa ont eux aussi, à leur manière, tristement confirmé l'importance de cette question. ■

Mona Kaddoumi

Pour la venue du président français Jacques Chirac en Jordanie prévue vers la fin du mois d'octobre, le Jourdain et le Star publieront un supplément spécial. Un événement majeur dans les relations jordano-françaises qui vous offre la possibilité de faire de la publicité pour votre société ou votre entreprise. Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras ou Mahmoud Fares au 645 380.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Exposition

«Ghada Dahdaleh». Une jeune peintre jordanienne d'origine palestinienne, Ghada Dahdaleh, revient en Jordanie après un long séjour au Canada pour présenter son exposition «Portes et fenêtres». Jusqu'au 29/10 au Centre Culturel français.

Vidéo

Cycle Alain Resnais: quatre films sont présentés dans le cadre de ce cycle au mois d'octobre. «Préférence», le 14 octobre à 20h00 au CCF.

Bibliothèque

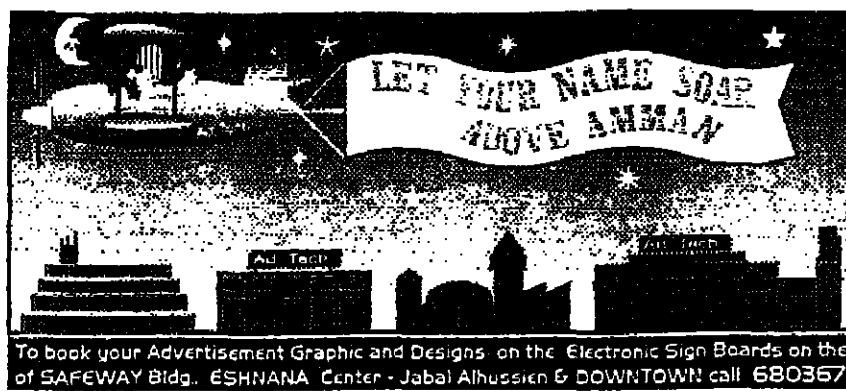
La bibliothèque du Centre culturel français a de nouveaux horaires:

samedi: 13h30-19h30
dimanche: 11h00-19h30
lundi: 11h00-20h00

mardi: 11h00-19h30
mercredi: 11h00-19h30
jeudi: 10h00-15h30

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Microsoft Middle East & STS announce the long-awaited Arabic OS and office applications: Arabic Windows 95 launches in Jordan

MICROSOFT MIDDLE East and Specialized Technical Services (STS) held a launch event for Microsoft Arabic Windows 95 and Arabic Office 95 in Amman on Monday 7 October, 1996, at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

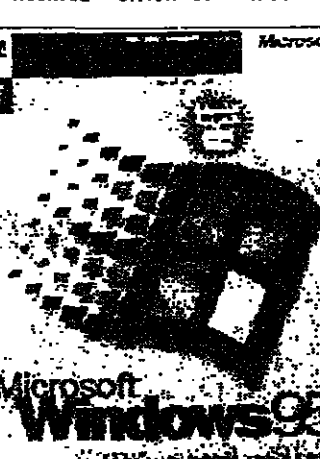
This long-awaited launch was part of Microsoft Middle East's tour of the region, announcing its new Arabic products, following almost one year of the launch of the English (Latin) versions of these packages on the Middle Eastern market.

Microsoft Windows 95 is the 32-bit operating system that has become the standard worldwide. Arabic Windows 95 is available in two separate versions: enabled and localized. The enabled version offers a user interface (the menus, help screens and dialogue boxes) in English, yet allows entry, display and printing of both Arabic and English texts within applications. A user comfortable with English menus, for example, would install the enabled version.

On the other hand, the localized edition provides all the above mentioned user interface components in Arabic and, of course, provides Arabic and English entry, display and printing. Once the user has decided which version to purchase, functionality within both enabled and localized versions is the same.

Another point, that buyers should take note of, is that there is an option to either purchase a full version of Arabic

Windows 95, or simply purchase an upgrade which costs less. If you are already using a licensed version of Windows



3.x or Windows 95, you just need to purchase the Arabic Windows 95 upgrade.

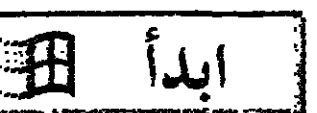
Microsoft Arabic Office 95, release 7.0, is available in two editions. There is the standard edition which offers Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Schedule +. Then there is the Professional edition which adds Microsoft Access to the previous applications.

All applications are either fully-Arabized or Arabic-enabled, providing a new level of functionality and integration under Windows 95. This enhanced cross-performance coincides with the release of the latest versions of these applications, especially Microsoft Word 7.0.

A lot of information was made available to Microsoft Windows developers and solution providers, regarding technical aspects of the new operating system and the support programs on offer from Microsoft Middle East.

Other surprises included the announcement of 'Arabic Themes' for the Arabic edition of Microsoft Windows 95 from AptecSoft. This is the first product designed to enrich the operating system environment with stunning images, animations and applications designed specifically for the Middle East user. These themes cover Islamic art, science, sports, the Gulf, Hajj (Islamic Pilgrimage), Egypt and a theme for children featuring Sinbad.

The event was attended by a huge audience who filled the seminar hall, all of whom eagerly watched the impressive demonstrations displayed by Microsoft Middle East officials. For more information on



The famous 'Start' sequence of Windows 95, Arabized

Arabic Windows 95 or Arabic Office 95, contact Specialized Technical Services (STS) on telephone 827611.



LONDON—European champions Germany begin what will be a long, though far from difficult, journey to the 1998 World Cup finals with a tricky first qualifier away to Armenia on Wednesday.

The Germans, playing their first competitive match since the final of Euro 96 on 30 June, will be without several key players from their successful summer campaign, including Borussia Dortmund libero Matthias Sammer and Bayern Munich defender Thomas Helmer.

And coach Berti Vogts was forced to re-arrange his defence for the group nine match again on Monday when Bayern's wing-back Christian Ziege and defensive midfielder Thomas Strunz also pulled out of the trip because of knee and back injuries.

Ukraine, who surprisingly beat Portugal 3-2 on Saturday, lead group nine with a maximum haul of six points, while Armenia have drawn their opening two matches against Portugal and Northern Ireland.

The Czech Republic, who

lost to Germany in the Euro 96 final, play their second match in group six following their 6-0 opening victory over Malta. Spain beat the Faroe Islands 6-2 in their opening game and both teams will be looking to maintain their unbeaten starts.

For the Czechs, like the Germans, it will be the first time since Euro 96 and coach Dusan Uhrin is looking for the same cohesive play that made his team the surprise package of the tournament in England.

Manchester United midfielder Karel Poborsky summed up the Czechs' attitude towards Spain after Sunday's final training match, a 1-0 win against second division Blau.

"They're explosive and technically very sound. And it's made all the more important because a loss will make it a difficult trip for either side," Poborsky said.

England, bidding to reach the World Cup finals for the first time since 1990, face their old rivals Poland at Wembley in a group two match which is

the latest in an astonishing sequence between the two countries.

They have met in the qualifying rounds of the 1974, 1990 and 1994 World Cups, the qualifying rounds of the 1992 European championship and the finals of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, but Poland have not beaten England since a 2-0 win in Chorzow eight matches and 23 years ago.

How congestion on the Internet is mitigated: Hand me thy Proxy?

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

THE WEBSTER'S dictionary defines the word "proxy" as being "the authority or power to act for another or a document giving such authorization." The term proxy has traditionally been used in legal and diplomatic spheres as it relates to the delegation of authority and responsibility.

However, it has become a widely used term in the evolving Internet jargon since its meaning was evidently suited to a popular technical solution on the Internet: servers that cache web pages.

Web page caching is basically the replication of web page from the Web server where it resides onto another server (the proxy), so as to allow for faster and less congested access to that particular web page. A proxy server is configured to get the latest update of the web page—in Internet jargon to refresh it—according to a specified time schedule. Proxy servers are typically used by big institutions like universities which have a narrow connection to the Internet; rather than congesting the narrow bandwidth with many web requests by thousands of students, the proxy server stores the most popular web pages and handles all the requests without engaging the connection except when it is time to refresh the cached web sites. Proxy caching also relieves the infrastructure of the

Internet from extra traffic that could otherwise overwhelm the already strained bandwidth due to the graphically intense and hence bigger traffic of the World Wide Web. The utilization of proxy servers is not limited to the universities, but it is also widely used by companies ranging from the huge commercial on-line services like America On Line and CompuServe to big On-Line services that offer "ramp on" to the Internet to the small and medium sized corporations using PC based small proxy servers from Netscape, Microsoft and other software companies.

In addition, browsing a "cached" web page is a much less patience-testing task than browsing original web pages; whereas a "cached" web page resides on a proxy server to which a user is directly connected (through a modem or a network), an original web page would most probably reside on a distant web server across many intermediate servers with frequently congested and overburdened connections which makes some web browsing only tolerated by people with the necessary patience.

More importantly, proxy servers are extremely helpful in resolving Internet censorship issues that have been a headache for many critics of the Internet's wild and largely unregulated nature.

For instance, for a secondary school that would like to give World Wide Web access to its students, while guaranteeing that sexually explicit

material be blocked, a proxy server is the only solution. The proxy server can be configured so that it only gives access to the web pages that the school designates and hence give control over which sites students can browse. On a larger scale, the application of proxy technology, in the Gulf States of Bahrain and Emirates, to control what the whole Internet users of the country can view, offers an intriguing example of how such technology can help check the Internet's infringements of different national and regional laws.

Of course the use of proxy servers, whether on a small company level or a macro national level, carries with it some disadvantages. Web pages that carry advertisements that change according to the time of the day, would lose this dynamic trait since a cached web page would keep the same advertisement until it is refreshed by the proxy server. Furthermore, web page owners won't be getting accurate statistics on the actual visitors of their web sites since many of the hits would be counted on proxy servers that store their web page rather than on their own web server. And for sites that rely on such statistics to attract advertisers, this is a serious drawback.

However, with the current high strains on the already congested Internet lines, the benefits of web page caching outweigh its drawbacks. Therefore, proxy servers will keep on using the "authority to act for" the web servers and continue to help both the censors and the telecommunications engineers.

News update

'Internet Development in Jordan' Seminar

The Jordan Computer Society (JCS) held a special seminar on the topic of 'Internet Development in Jordan', at the Amman Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday 8 October, 1996.

The seminar was given by a panel of speakers that included Mr Khalid Tabbara, director of Arabia On-Line, Mr Marwan Jum'a, general manager of NETS and others. Discussions focused on dispelling common misconceptions regarding the Internet, focusing on the different aspects of the on-line revolution in Jordan.

There was talk of the role

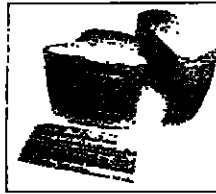
that BBS services have successfully achieved to herald in the information age.

The seminar was attended by people working in the information technology sector and the public.

Acer Aspire comes to Jordan

The sleek, black-case PC range from Acer is coming to Jordan. Acer Aspire, the latest and trendiest PC to be announced by Acer or anyone else, offers more than just straightforward functionality. It adds

beauty, by offering a stylish addition to your house or office; not just in color, but in its ergonomic look. Tansit Information Systems Group (TISG) and Special Systems Co. (SSC), both authorized Acer distributors in Jordan, are very confident about the potential of the Aspire in the local market. TISG plans to showcase the Aspire range at the Middle East Technology Show (METES) '96 next month. For users out there, tired of the traditional grey boxes of PCs, the Aspire should be a refreshing change. It may even signal a whole new trend.



Germany kicks off World Cup campaign with depleted team

TV coverage brings fixture chaos to Spain

MADRID—The date of this weekend's big clash in the Spanish league is still in doubt in the latest case of fixture disruption caused by television.

Pressure from a private TV channel may even mean Atletico Madrid will face Real Betis on Friday, ensuring Spaniards have televised soccer every night of the week.

In their bid to outmanoeuvre each other and gain viewers, rival channels often change match times at the last minute. A referee for a recent game still didn't know the exact kick-off time just 24 hours before the match was due to be played.

Games can even start late one day and finish early the next.

The changes have come as a shock in a country where fixture backlogs because of bad weather are a rarity and in which, until recently, all games were played on Sunday afternoon.

From 1989 one live game a week has been shown on Saturday evenings. The following year, private television arrived in Spain and since then a Sunday evening game has been held back by a few hours for live broadcast by pay station Canal Plus.

This season another private channel, Antena 3, has begun screening games on Mondays.

The massive expansion of European competitions means many clubs now bring forward league matches to Saturday to give their players a rest ahead of midweek games.

With all five Spanish sides still in Europe, nearly half this weekend's games will be played on Saturday. But because Barcelona's televised game at Compostela will be a major draw, several matches are likely to start early—or

late. But no match times have yet been fixed. Atletico-Betis could start at 10.30 pm, or even be brought forward to Friday.

A month ago, on a similarly congested Saturday, one game started at five o'clock while another—Valencia-Real Sociedad—did not finish until well after midnight.

Tenerife end many matches in the early hours and play most of their Sunday matches

an hour after other clubs because of the time difference between the Canary Islands and mainland Spain.

In some cases Tenerife end their Sunday fixture nearly 10 hours after Rayo Vallecano begin theirs.

Rayo, to confuse things a little further, play at midday on Sunday to avoid competition from neighbouring Madrid giants Real and Atletico.

Palace Lights National rally starts tomorrow

AMMAN (Star)—During a press conference at the RACI last Tuesday, the Chairman of the Rally Committee, Mr Hasan al Ala'a Addin, announced the launch of the Palace Lights National Rally Tomorrow.

The race will be inaugurated by HRH Prince Faisal. The sponsor of the event is the Palace Lights Co., which also sponsors the Jordanian car racer Mr Bashar Al Bustami. The race has four stages starting from Iraq al Amir to the Dead Sea, Al Kalfein and ending at Madaba at the company's premises.



Adidas to sponsor 1998 World Cup

FRANKFURT—The sportswear firm Adidas said recently that it had acquired the rights to be an official sponsor of the 1998 soccer World Cup and also acquired global licensing rights for the event.

Adidas, famous for its three-stripe logo, said the deal made it the first worldwide sportswear maker to obtain exclusive rights to the World Cup. The 1998 finals are being staged in France.

Adidas would not say how much it paid for the rights to FIFA, world soccer's governing body, or to Japan's Sony Corp which has the sole global World Cup merchandising rights.

But similar four-year rights for the Atlanta Olympics and the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, cost each global sponsor about \$40 million.

The deal marks the return of Adidas

into the ring as a global sportswear maker against US rivals Nike Inc. and Reebok, who have been trying to make inroads into Adidas's lucrative European markets and also into soccer.

"This is one sign that Adidas is back in the world market," said Adidas spokesman Peter Csanadi.

"It is a big honour for us to be a sponsor because we have a long history in soccer," Csanadi said.

Adidas said the first licensed products related to the soccer event would be launched in France a few months before the December holiday season.

Adidas will have the global rights to use the World Cup logo on its products, particularly on shirts, balls and other sports-wear items.

Autotrack race set to go

IN PREPARATION for the official inauguration of the Autotrack race, the Jordan Car Race Sport Complex held several test runs, the last of which was on 27 September. A total of 45 racers took part in the third experimental race. Some of those are Jordanian champions like Bashar Al Bustami, Marouf Abu Samra, Hassan and Tarek Taha'a. The audience who attended the race was estimated at 1200.

The event had two types of races: a race made on an asphalt course with dangerous curves and turns and the second was exclusive to cars equipped with protective cages. Four racers participated in the second race.



The final results for the first race went as follows:
● Bashar Al Bustami, first, 8th group, 1:39:19
● Marouf Abu Samra, second, 8th group, 1:41:17
● Hassan al Taha'a, third, 6th group, 1:42:06

An organizing committee was formed after the event. Its members include:

Tarek al Taha'a, president of the committee, Isa Kayyal, vice president, Laith al Nabar, general observer, Ra'ad Haddad, head of observers, Nurt Abedah, coordinating officer, Waleed Afaneh, official spokesman, Ilias Janakat, head of the administrative committee.

The aim of the committee is to organize several local and international car race events. The project is aimed at holding races that will be held for the first time in the region. These will be Rally Cross, formula 3000 in addition to the Curting and local speed tests.